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[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/72/441)*]

72/198. International cooperation to address and counter the world drug problem

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem",[1] in its entirety, reiterating that the operational recommendations contained therein are integrated, indivisible, multidisciplinary and mutually reinforcing and are aimed at a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach to addressing and countering the world drug problem,

Reaffirming also the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem[2] and the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action,[3] and recalling the resolutions adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly,[4]

Recalling other relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 71/211 of 19 December 2016,

Recalling also all resolutions adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixtieth session,[5]

[1] Resolution S-30/1, annex.
[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.
[3] Ibid., *2014, Supplement No. 8* (E/2014/28), chap. I, sect. C.
[4] Resolutions S-20/1, S-20/2, S-20/3 and S-20/4 A–E.
[5] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 8* (E/2017/28), chap. I.

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Underscoring that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[6] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[7] the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988[8] and other relevant international instruments constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system,

Welcoming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[9] and noting that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Reaffirming its commitment to the goals and objectives of the three international drug control conventions, including concern about the health and welfare of humankind as well as the individual and public health-related, social and safety problems resulting from the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, in particular among children and young people, and drug-related crime, and reaffirming its determination to prevent and treat the abuse of such substances and prevent and counter their illicit cultivation, production, manufacturing and trafficking,

Reaffirming its unwavering commitment to ensuring that all aspects of demand reduction and related measures, supply reduction and related measures, and international cooperation are addressed in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[10] with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States,

Recognizing that the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that should be addressed in a multilateral setting through effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing, balanced, scientific evidence-based and comprehensive approach,

Reaffirming the crucial role of Member States in developing an effective and comprehensive approach to addressing and countering the world drug problem,

Reaffirming also the principal role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, and reaffirming further the support and appreciation of the General Assembly for the efforts of the United Nations, in particular those of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as the leading entity in the United Nations system for addressing and countering the world drug problem, and reaffirming further the treaty-mandated roles of the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization,

Recognizing the role of the United Nations Development Programme and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, among other agencies, within their respective mandates,

Recognizing also that civil society, as well as the scientific community and academia, play an important role in addressing and countering the world drug problem, and noting that affected populations and representatives of civil society entities, where appropriate, should be enabled to play a participatory role in the formulation, implementation and provision of relevant scientific evidence in support

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
[7] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.
[8] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.
[9] Resolution 70/1.
[10] Resolution 217 A (III).

of, as appropriate, the evaluation of drug control policies and programmes, and recognizing further the importance of cooperation with the private sector in this regard,

Reaffirming the determination of Member States to tackle the world drug problem and to actively promote a society free of drug abuse in order to help to ensure that all people can live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity, and reaffirming also the determination of Member States to address public health, safety and social problems resulting from drug abuse,

Reaffirming also the need to address the key causes and consequences of the world drug problem, including those in the health, social, human rights, economic, justice, public security and law enforcement fields, in line with the principle of common and shared responsibility, and recognizing the value of comprehensive and balanced policy interventions, including those in the field of promotion of sustainable and viable livelihoods,

Expressing its appreciation for the results already achieved by the initiatives at the bilateral, regional and international levels, and recognizing that further positive results can be achieved with sustained and collective efforts through international cooperation in reducing the demand and supply of illicit drugs,

Recognizing that, while tangible progress has been achieved in some fields, the world drug problem continues to present challenges to the health, safety and well-being of all humanity, and resolving to reinforce national and international efforts and further increase international cooperation to face those challenges,

Recognizing also, as part of a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach to addressing and countering the world drug problem, that appropriate emphasis should be placed on individuals, families, communities and society as a whole, with a view to promoting and protecting the health, safety and well-being of all humanity,

Expressing deep concern at the high price paid by society and by individuals and their families as a result of the world drug problem, and paying special tribute to those who have sacrificed their lives, in particular law enforcement and judicial personnel, and to the health-care and civil society personnel and volunteers who dedicate themselves to countering and addressing this phenomenon,

Noting with concern that the availability of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes, including for the relief of pain and suffering, remains low to non-existent in many countries of the world, and highlighting the need to enhance national efforts and international cooperation at all levels to address that situation by promoting measures to ensure their availability, affordability and accessibility for medical and scientific purposes, within the framework of national legal systems, while simultaneously preventing their diversion, abuse and trafficking, in order to fulfil the aims and objectives of the three international drug control conventions,

Reaffirming equally that reducing drug abuse requires efforts to reduce demand, which must be demonstrated by sustained widespread demand reduction initiatives that are age- and gender-sensitive and integrate a comprehensive public health approach spanning the spectrum of prevention, education, early detection and intervention, treatment, care and related support services, recovery support and the rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug users, in full compliance with the three international drug control conventions,

Welcoming continued efforts to enhance coherence within the United Nations system at all levels,

Reaffirming the need to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, in their efforts to support Member States in the implementation of international drug control treaties in accordance with applicable human rights obligations and to promote protection of and respect for human rights and the dignity of all individuals in the context of drug programmes, strategies and policies,

Recognizing that successfully addressing and countering the world drug problem requires close cooperation and coordination among domestic authorities at all levels, particularly in the health, education, justice and law enforcement sectors, taking into account their respective areas of competence under national legislation,

Stressing the importance of enhancing international cooperation in the identification and voluntary reporting of and response to new psychoactive substances and incidents involving such substances,

Noting with grave concern the increased abuse of certain drugs and the proliferation of new substances worldwide, which are a possible threat to public health and are not controlled under the three international drug control conventions,

Noting with grave concern also the increasing sophistication of the transnational criminal groups engaged in the illicit manufacture and distribution of amphetamine-type stimulants worldwide, as well as the proliferation and diversion of chemical precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Recognizing the importance of appropriately mainstreaming gender and age perspectives in drug-related policies and programmes,

Expressing concern that aspects of the world drug problem associated with illicit drug production can cause serious harm to the environment, including deforestation, soil erosion and degradation, the loss of endemic species, contamination of the soil, groundwater and waterways and the release of greenhouse gases,

Reaffirming that alternative development policies are an important component in enhancing development in States affected by, or in some cases at risk of, the illicit cultivation of crops used for illicit drug production and manufacture, and that they play an important role in national, regional and international development policies and in comprehensive policies of poverty reduction and cooperation,

Reaffirming also the commitment to addressing drug-related socioeconomic issues related to the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and the illicit manufacture and production of and trafficking in drugs through the implementation of long-term, comprehensive and sustainable development-oriented and balanced drug control policies and programmes, including alternative development and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, which are part of sustainable crop control strategies,

Reaffirming further the need to mobilize adequate resources to address and counter the world drug problem, and calling for the enhancement of assistance to developing countries, upon request, in effectively implementing the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the operational recommendations contained in the annex to resolution S-30/1 of 19 April 2016,

Recognizing that there are persistent, new and evolving challenges that should be addressed in conformity with the three international drug control conventions, which allow for sufficient flexibility for States parties to design and implement national drug policies according to their priorities and needs, consistent with the principle of common and shared responsibility and applicable international law,

Encouraging Member States to develop and strengthen, as appropriate, mechanisms of domestic coordination and timely and efficient information-sharing between authorities involved in identifying and countering drug trafficking, diversion of precursors and related money-laundering, to integrate financial investigations more thoroughly into interdiction operations so as to identify individuals and companies involved in such activities, and to encourage, in accordance with national legislation, cooperation with the private sector, including financial institutions, designated non-financial businesses and professions, as well as providers of money or value transfer services, to identify suspicious transactions, with a view to further investigating and disrupting the drug trafficking business model,

Recalling the adoption, by its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009, of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem and its decision, in resolution 67/193 of 20 December 2012, to convene a special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem that would review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments,

1. *Recalls* the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held at United Nations Headquarters from 19 to 21 April 2016, at which the Assembly reviewed the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[2] including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments, takes note of the discussions held during the session, and reaffirms in its entirety the outcome document entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem";[1]

2. *Emphasizes* that the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action[3] and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem" which thus represents the most recent consensus, represent the commitments made by the international community over the preceding decade to addressing and countering, in a balanced manner, the world drug problem, and recognizes that those documents are complementary and mutually reinforcing;

3. *Reiterates its call upon* Member States to take, in a timely manner, the measures necessary to implement the actions and attain the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, and to address the general challenges and priorities for action identified in the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

4. *Reaffirms* that addressing and countering the world drug problem is a common and shared responsibility that must be addressed in a multilateral setting, that it requires an integrated and balanced approach and that it must be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other provisions of international law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[10]

and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[11] on human rights and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, for the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and on the basis of the principles of equal rights and mutual respect;

5. *Reiterates* that the efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address and counter the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing, and recognizes the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in contributing to the global follow-up and in supporting the thematic review of progress on the Goals related to its mandate, and in this regard encourages the Commission to continue to provide input to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, including by providing relevant data, as implementation of the recommendations contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly may contribute to the attainment of the related Goals;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to engage in effective cooperation and practical action aimed at addressing and countering the world drug problem on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility;

7. *Encourages* Member States to enhance North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, in cooperation with the international development community and other key stakeholders, in order to effectively address and counter the world drug problem;

8. *Reiterates its commitment* to promoting the health, welfare and well-being of all individuals, families, communities and society as a whole and to facilitating healthy lifestyles through effective, comprehensive, scientific evidence-based demand reduction initiatives at all levels, covering, in accordance with national legislation and the three international drug control conventions, prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration measures, as well as initiatives and measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse;

9. *Also reiterates its commitment* to protect the safety and assure the security of individuals, societies and communities by intensifying efforts to prevent and counter the illicit cultivation, production and manufacture of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as drug-related crime and violence, through, inter alia, more effective drug-related crime prevention and law enforcement measures, as well as by addressing links with other forms of organized crime, including money-laundering, corruption and other criminal activities, mindful of their social and economic causes and consequences;

10. *Underlines* the need for Member States to cooperate closely with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization, the International Narcotics Control Board and other international and regional organizations, as well as the scientific community, including academia, in contributing to the scientific assessment of drug demand and supply reduction policies, drug markets and drug-related crime;

11. *Recognizes* that transit States continue to face multifaceted challenges, and reaffirms the continuing need for cooperation and support, including the provision of technical assistance, to, inter alia, enhance their capacities to effectively address and counter the world drug problem, in conformity with the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;[8]

[11] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

12. *Urges* Member States to address the relevant socioeconomic factors that relate to the world drug problem through a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach that incorporates drug policies in a broader socioeconomic development agenda, in compliance with the three international drug control conventions;

13. *Invites* Member States to consider strengthening a development perspective as part of comprehensive, integrated and balanced national drug policies and programmes so as to tackle the related causes and consequences of the illicit cultivation, manufacture and production of and trafficking in drugs by, inter alia, addressing risk factors affecting individuals, communities and society, which may include a lack of services, infrastructure needs, drug-related violence, exclusion, marginalization and social disintegration, in order to contribute to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies;

14. *Encourages* the development of viable economic alternatives, particularly for communities affected by or at risk of illicit cultivation of drug crops and other illicit drug-related activities in urban and rural areas, including through comprehensive alternative development programmes, and to this end encourages Member States to consider development-oriented interventions, while ensuring that both men and women benefit equally from them, including through job opportunities, improved infrastructure and basic public services and, as appropriate, access and legal titles to land for farmers and local communities, which will also contribute to preventing, reducing or eliminating illicit cultivation and other drug-related activities;

15. *Emphasizes* the need to strengthen, including through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and, as appropriate, its subsidiary bodies, the regular exchange of information, good practices and lessons learned among national practitioners from different fields and at all levels to effectively implement an integrated and balanced approach to the world drug problem and its various aspects and the need to consider additional measures to further facilitate meaningful discussion among those practitioners;

16. *Reiterates its call* to mainstream a gender perspective into and ensure the involvement of women in all stages of the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of drug policies and programmes, to develop and disseminate gender-sensitive and age-appropriate measures that take into account the specific needs and circumstances faced by women and girls with regard to the world drug problem and, as States parties, implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;[12]

17. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to support Member States, upon request, in mainstreaming a gender perspective in their policies and programmes related to the world drug problem, and invites the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and other relevant United Nations entities, within their mandates, to cooperate with the Office in this regard;

18. *Urges* Member States to increase the availability, coverage and quality of scientific evidence-based prevention measures and tools that target relevant age and risk groups in multiple settings, reaching youth in school as well as out of school, among others, through drug abuse prevention programmes and public awareness-raising campaigns, including by using the Internet, social media and other online platforms, to develop and implement prevention curricula and early intervention programmes for use in the education system at all levels, as well as in vocational

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

training, including in the workplace, and to enhance the capacity of teachers and other relevant professionals to provide or recommend counselling, prevention and care services;

19. *Invites* Member States to consider enhancing cooperation among public health, education and law enforcement authorities when developing prevention initiatives;

20. *Also invites* Member States to promote and improve the systematic collection of information and gathering of evidence as well as the sharing, at the national and international levels, of reliable and comparable data on drug use and epidemiology, including on social, economic and other risk factors, to promote, as appropriate, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the World Health Assembly, the use of internationally recognized standards, such as the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention, and the exchange of best practices, and to formulate effective drug use prevention strategies and programmes in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization and other relevant United Nations entities;

21. *Recognizes* drug dependence as a complex, multifactorial health disorder characterized by a chronic and relapsing nature, with social causes and consequences, that can be prevented and treated through, inter alia, effective scientific evidence-based drug treatment, care and rehabilitation programmes, including community-based programmes, and also recognizes the need to strengthen capacity for aftercare for and the rehabilitation, recovery and social reintegration of individuals with substance use disorders, including, as appropriate, through assistance for effective reintegration into the labour market and other support services;

22. *Encourages* Member States to promote the inclusion in national drug policies, in accordance with national legislation and as appropriate, of elements for the prevention and treatment of drug overdose, in particular opioid overdose, including the use of opioid receptor antagonists, such as naloxone, to reduce drug-related mortality;

23. *Invites* Member States to promote cooperation with and technical assistance to the States most affected by the transit of drugs in developing and implementing comprehensive and integrated policies to address, where appropriate, the impact of illicit drug trafficking on increasing drug use in such States, including by reinforcing national programmes aimed at prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, rehabilitation and social reintegration;

24. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board to continue to strengthen cooperation with the World Health Organization and other competent United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, as part of a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach to strengthening health and social welfare measures in addressing the world drug problem, including through effective prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration, in cooperation, as appropriate, with civil society and the scientific community, and to keep the Commission on Narcotic Drugs appropriately updated;

25. *Welcomes* the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization in February 2017, which will facilitate increased collaboration and coordination between these two entities, within their mandates, in advancing efforts to address and counter the world drug problem, and encourages the Office to continue to strengthen its collaboration with the World Health Organization and to explore, as appropriate,

cooperation arrangements with other relevant United Nations agencies and entities and to keep the Commission on Narcotic Drugs appropriately updated;

26. *Encourages* Member States to involve, as appropriate, policymakers, parliamentarians, educators, civil society, the scientific community, academia, target populations, individuals in recovery from substance use disorders and their peer groups, families and other co-dependent people, as well as the private sector, in the development of prevention programmes aimed at raising public awareness of the dangers and risks associated with drug abuse, and involve, inter alia, parents, care services providers, teachers, peer groups, health professionals, religious communities, community leaders, social workers, sports associations, media professionals and entertainment industries, as appropriate, in their implementation;

27. *Also encourages* Member States to consider alternatives to incarceration, conviction and punishment where appropriate and in accordance with the three international drug control conventions, noting that, in appropriate cases of a minor nature, States may provide, as alternatives to conviction or punishment, measures such as education, rehabilitation or social reintegration, as well as, when the offender has a drug abuse disorder, treatment and aftercare, as well as support for recovery;

28. *Encourages* the development, adoption and implementation, with due regard for national, constitutional, legal and administrative systems, of alternative or additional measures with regard to conviction or punishment in cases of an appropriate nature, in accordance with the three international drug control conventions and taking into account, as appropriate, relevant United Nations standards and rules, such as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules);[13]

29. *Also encourages* the consideration of the specific needs and possible multiple vulnerabilities of women drug offenders when imprisoned, in line with the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules);[14]

30. *Invites* Member States to consider reviewing their drug sentencing policies and practices in order to facilitate collaboration between justice and public health authorities in the development and implementation of initiatives that utilize alternative measures to conviction or punishment for appropriate drug-related offences of a minor nature, subject to the legal frameworks of Member States;

31. *Emphasizes* the need to enhance the knowledge of policymakers and the capacity, as appropriate, of relevant national authorities on various aspects of the world drug problem in order to ensure that national drug policies, as part of a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach, fully respect all human rights and fundamental freedoms and protect the health, safety and well-being of individuals, families, vulnerable members of society, communities and society as a whole, and to that end encourages the cooperation of Member States with, and cooperation among, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board, the World Health Organization and other relevant United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, including those relevant to the above-mentioned issues, and relevant regional and international organizations, as well as with civil society and the private sector, as appropriate;

32. *Urges* Member States to ensure non-discriminatory access to health, care and social services in prevention, primary care and treatment programmes, including those offered to persons in prison or pretrial detention, which are to be on a level

[13] Resolution 45/110, annex.

[14] Resolution 65/229, annex.

equal to those available in the community, and to ensure that women, including detained women, have access to adequate health services and counselling, including those particularly needed during pregnancy;

33. *Encourages* Member States to promote effective supervision of drug treatment and rehabilitation facilities by competent domestic authorities so as to ensure adequate quality of drug treatment and rehabilitation services and prevent any possible acts of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, in accordance with domestic legislation and applicable international law;

34. *Calls upon* Member States to enhance access to treatment for drug use disorders for those who are incarcerated and promote effective oversight and encourage, as appropriate, self-assessments of confinement facilities, taking into consideration the United Nations standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice, including the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules),[15] implement, where appropriate, measures aimed at addressing and eliminating prison overcrowding and violence, and provide capacity-building to relevant national authorities;

35. *Encourages* Member States to promote proportionate national sentencing policies, practices and guidelines for drug-related offences, whereby the severity of penalties is proportionate to the gravity of offences and both mitigating and aggravating factors are taken into account, including the circumstances enumerated in article 3 of the 1988 Convention and other relevant and applicable international law, and in accordance with national legislation;

36. *Calls for* the promotion of bilateral, regional and international cooperation, including through intelligence-sharing and cross-border cooperation, aimed at addressing and countering the world drug problem more effectively, in particular by encouraging and supporting such cooperation by those States most directly affected by illicit crop cultivation and the illicit production, manufacture, transit, trafficking, distribution and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

37. *Encourages* Member States to develop and implement, as appropriate, comprehensive policies and programmes that, by fostering social development, are aimed at the prevention of crime and violence and that address the multiple factors that contribute to marginalization, crime and victimization, in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including civil society, and based on scientific evidence and taking into account good practices;

38. *Reaffirms* the need for Member States to review and, if necessary, strengthen coordinated measures, enhance capacity-building to counter money-laundering arising from drug trafficking and improve legal cooperation, including judicial cooperation, where appropriate, at the national, regional and international levels, to dismantle organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking, in order to provide for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of the perpetrators of such crimes;

39. *Underlines* the need to strengthen regional, subregional and international cooperation in criminal matters, as appropriate, including judicial cooperation in the areas of, inter alia, extradition, mutual legal assistance and transfer of proceedings, in accordance with the three international drug control conventions and other international legal instruments and national legislation, and to strive to provide appropriate resources to national competent authorities, including through the provision of targeted technical assistance to requesting countries;

[15] Resolution 70/175, annex.

40. *Notes* the importance of an integrated approach in drug policies, including by strengthening partnerships between the public health, development, human rights, justice and law enforcement fields and by facilitating inter-agency cooperation and communication, where appropriate;

41. *Encourages* the promotion, where appropriate, in the framework of international cooperation, of the use of law enforcement techniques, consistent with national legislation and international law, including applicable human rights obligations, in order to ensure that drug traffickers are brought to justice and that major criminal organizations are disrupted and dismantled;

42. *Reiterates* the strong commitment of Member States to improving access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes by appropriately addressing existing barriers in this regard, including those related to legislation, regulatory systems, health-care systems, affordability, the training of health-care professionals, education, awareness-raising, estimates, assessment and reporting, benchmarks for consumption of substances under control and international cooperation and coordination, while concurrently preventing the diversion and abuse of and trafficking in such substances;

43. *Recognizes* the effectiveness of law enforcement measures against organized criminal groups and individuals involved in drug-related crimes, and the need to place appropriate focus within the respective jurisdictions of Member States on those responsible for illicit activities of a larger scale or more serious nature;

44. *Recalls* the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030, adopted by the General Assembly on 8 June 2016;[16]

45. *Invites* relevant national authorities to consider, in accordance with their national legislation and the three international drug control conventions, including in national prevention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration measures and programmes, in the context of comprehensive and balanced drug demand reduction efforts, effective measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse, including appropriate medication-assisted therapy programmes, injecting equipment programmes as well as antiretroviral therapy and other relevant interventions that prevent the transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases associated with drug use, and to consider ensuring access to such interventions, including in treatment and outreach services, prisons and other custodial settings, and promoting in that regard the use, as appropriate, of the technical guide for countries to set targets for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care for injecting drug users, issued by the World Health Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS;

46. *Urges* Member States and other donors to continue to provide bilateral and other funding for the global drug problem response, including in particular the HIV/AIDS response, including to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, and to strive to ensure that such funding contributes to addressing the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic among people who inject drugs, and HIV/AIDS in prison settings, in the spirit of the pledge made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[9] to leave no one behind;

47. *Acknowledges* the continuing efforts made and the progress achieved in countering the world drug problem, and stresses the need to strengthen and intensify joint efforts at the national, regional and international levels to tackle the global

[16] Resolution 70/266, annex.

challenges related to the world drug problem in a more comprehensive manner, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, including by means of enhanced and better-coordinated technical and financial assistance;

48. *Takes note with appreciation* of the 2016 report of the International Narcotics Control Board[17] and the supplementary reports thereto;

49. *Invites* Member States to strengthen, as appropriate, the proper functioning of national control systems and domestic assessment mechanisms and programmes, in cooperation with the International Narcotics Control Board, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization and other relevant United Nations system agencies, to identify, analyse and remove impediments to the availability and accessibility of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, within appropriate control mechanisms, as required by the three international drug control conventions and taking into account the publication entitled "Ensuring Balance in National Policies on Controlled Substances: Guidance for Availability and Accessibility of Controlled Medicines", and, for that purpose, to consider the provision of technical and financial assistance, upon request, to developing countries;

50. *Urges* all Member States to enact comprehensive measures aimed at stemming the abuse, diversion and misuse of prescription drugs, in particular through the establishment of awareness-raising initiatives targeting the general public and health-care providers;

51. *Recognizes* that it is necessary for Member States, under the three international drug control conventions and the fundamental principles of their domestic legal systems and national legislation, to consider, where appropriate:

(a) Regularly reviewing and assessing their drug control policies, ensuring that they are effective, comprehensive, balanced and aimed at promoting the health and well-being of individuals, families, communities and society as a whole;

(b) Providing, as appropriate, comprehensive, integrated drug demand reduction programmes, based on scientific evidence and covering a range of measures, including primary prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, rehabilitation, social reintegration and measures aimed at minimizing the negative public health and social impacts of drug abuse, aimed at promoting health and social well-being among individuals, families and communities and reducing the adverse consequences of drug abuse for individuals and society as a whole;

52. *Calls upon* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board, the World Health Organization and other United Nations entities with pertinent technical and operational expertise, within their mandates, to continue to provide, upon request, advice and assistance to States that are reviewing and updating their drug policies, in compliance with the three international drug control conventions, taking into account their national priorities and needs through, among other things, the promotion of the exchange of information and best practices on scientific evidence-based policies adopted by States;

53. *Calls upon* Member States to promote and strengthen the exchange of information and, as appropriate, drug-related criminal intelligence among law enforcement and border control agencies, including through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime multilateral portals and regional information centres and networks, and to promote joint investigations and coordinate operations, in conformity with national legislation, and training programmes at all levels, in order to identify, disrupt and dismantle organized criminal groups operating transnationally

[17] International Narcotics Control Board, document E/INCB/2016/1.

that are involved in any activities related to the illicit production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the diversion of their precursors and related money-laundering;

54. *Reiterates* the commitment of Member States to share relevant information with, as appropriate, and strengthen the capacity of the World Health Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board and other relevant international and regional organizations to prioritize the review of the most prevalent, persistent and harmful new psychoactive substances and to facilitate informed scheduling decisions by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

55. *Encourages* Member States to enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies to detect and identify new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, and promote cross-border cooperation and information-sharing to prevent their abuse and diversion, including through the use of existing International Narcotics Control Board and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime tools and projects;

56. *Also encourages* Member States to establish and strengthen partnerships and information exchange with industries, in particular with chemical and pharmaceutical industries and other relevant private sector entities, and encourage the use of the *Guidelines for a Voluntary Code of Practice for the Chemical Industry*, issued by the International Narcotics Control Board, and the Board's model memorandum of understanding between Governments and private sector partners, as and where appropriate, bearing in mind the important role these industries can play in addressing and countering the world drug problem;

57. *Calls upon* Member States to commit to implementing timely, scientific evidence-based control or regulatory measures within national legislative and administrative systems to tackle and manage the challenge of new psychoactive substances, and to consider the use of interim steps while substances are under review, such as provisional measures of control, or to make public health announcements, as well as share information and expertise on those measures;

58. *Invites* Member States to support existing research, collection and scientific analysis of data related to amphetamine-type stimulants through the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme and relevant International Narcotics Control Board tools, such as Project Prism, and strengthen cooperation at all levels in tackling amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine;

59. *Also invites* Member States to promote the use, as appropriate, of relevant existing programmes, mechanisms and coordinated operations at all levels and continue the development and sharing of best practices and lessons learned among practitioners with regard to a balanced and integrated approach to the evolving threat of amphetamine-type stimulants;

60. *Calls upon* Member States to continue efforts to identify and monitor trends in the composition, production, prevalence and distribution of new psychoactive substances, as well as patterns of use and adverse consequences, and assess the risks to the health and safety of individuals and society as a whole and the potential uses of new psychoactive substances for medical and scientific purposes, and on that basis to develop and strengthen domestic and national legislative, regulatory, administrative and operational responses and practices by domestic and national legislative, law enforcement, judiciary, social and welfare, educational and health authorities;

61. *Invites* Member States to target the illicit cultivation of crops used for the illicit production and manufacture of drugs and address related factors by implementing comprehensive strategies aimed at alleviating poverty and strengthening the rule of law, accountable, effective and inclusive institutions and public services and institutional frameworks, as appropriate, and by promoting sustainable development aimed at enhancing the welfare of the affected and vulnerable population through licit alternatives;

62. *Encourages* the promotion of inclusive economic growth and support for initiatives that contribute to poverty eradication and the sustainability of social and economic development, and encourages Member States to develop measures for rural development, improving infrastructure and social inclusion and protection, addressing the consequences of illicit crop cultivation and the manufacture and production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances on the environment, with the incorporation and participation of local communities, and to consider taking voluntary measures to promote products stemming from alternative development, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, to gain access to markets, consistent with applicable multilateral trade rules and with national and international law, within the framework of comprehensive and balanced drug control strategies;

63. *Expresses concern* that the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit manufacture, distribution and trafficking remain serious challenges in addressing and countering the world drug problem, and recognizes the need for strengthening sustainable crop control strategies that may include, inter alia, alternative development, eradication and law enforcement measures, for the purpose of preventing and significantly and measurably reducing the illicit cultivation of crops, and the need to intensify joint efforts at the national, regional and international levels in a more comprehensive manner, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, including by means of appropriate preventive tools and measures, enhanced and better-coordinated financial and technical assistance and action-oriented programmes, in order to tackle those challenges;

64. *Invites* Member States to consider elaborating and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, that support sustainable crop control strategies to prevent and significantly, durably and measurably reduce illicit crop cultivation and other illicit drug-related activities, ensuring the empowerment, ownership and responsibility of affected local communities, including farmers and their cooperatives, by taking into account the vulnerabilities and specific needs of communities affected by or at risk of illicit cultivation, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant international organizations, bearing in mind national and regional development policies and action plans, with a view to contributing to the building of peaceful, inclusive and just societies, consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals and in compliance with relevant and applicable international and national law;

65. *Also invites* Member States to strengthen subregional, regional and international cooperation to support comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, as an essential part of successful prevention and crop control strategies to increase the positive outcome of such programmes, especially in the areas affected by and at risk of illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs

and psychotropic substances, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;[18]

66. *Urges* relevant international financial institutions, United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, to consider increasing their support, including through long-term and flexible funding, for the implementation of comprehensive and balanced development-oriented drug control programmes and viable economic alternatives, in particular alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, based on identified needs and national priorities, for areas and populations affected by or vulnerable to the illicit cultivation of drug crops, with a view to its prevention, reduction and elimination, and encourages States to the extent possible to stay strongly committed to financing such programmes;

67. *Urges* Member States to promote partnerships and innovative cooperation initiatives with the private sector, civil society and international financial institutions to create conditions more conducive to productive investments targeted at job creation in areas and among communities affected by or at risk of illicit drug cultivation, production, manufacturing, trafficking and other illicit drug-related activities in order to prevent, reduce or eliminate them, and share best practices, lessons learned, expertise and skills in this regard;

68. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that measures to prevent the illicit cultivation of and to eradicate plants containing narcotic and psychotropic substances respect fundamental human rights, take due account of traditional licit uses, where there is historical evidence of such use, and of the protection of the environment, in accordance with the three international drug control conventions, and also take into account, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;[19]

69. *Reiterates its commitment* to strengthen regional and international cooperation to support sustainable alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, in close collaboration with all relevant stakeholders at the local, national and international levels, and to develop and share best practices towards implementing the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, taking into account all the lessons learned and good practices, in particular by countries with extensive expertise in alternative development;

70. *Welcomes* resolution 71/210 of 19 December 2016, entitled "Promoting the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development", and encourages Member States, international organizations, entities and other relevant stakeholders to take due account of the Guiding Principles when designing and implementing alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development programmes, as appropriate;

71. *Urges* Member States to increase cooperation at all levels and enhance measures to prevent and significantly and measurably reduce or eliminate the illicit cultivation of opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis plant used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including through eradication, within the framework of sustainable crop control strategies and measures;

72. *Reiterates its commitment* to strengthen specialized, targeted, effective and sustainable technical assistance, including, where appropriate, adequate financial assistance, training, capacity-building, equipment and technological know-how, to

[18] Resolution 68/196, annex.
[19] Resolution 61/295, annex.

requesting countries, including transit countries, through and in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as the World Health Organization and other relevant United Nations entities and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, so as to help Member States to effectively address the health, socioeconomic, human rights, justice and law enforcement aspects of the world drug problem;

73. *Calls upon* Member States to respond to the serious challenges posed by the increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime and money-laundering, and, in some cases, terrorism, including money-laundering in connection with the financing of terrorism, by using an integrated, multidisciplinary approach, such as through promoting and supporting reliable data collection, research and, as appropriate, intelligence- and analysis-sharing to ensure effective policymaking and interventions;

74. *Invites* Member States to enhance national, regional, subregional, interregional and international capacity to prevent and counter money-laundering and illicit financial flows stemming from drug trafficking and related crimes, including, as appropriate, through the detection, investigation and prosecution of such activities, with a view to effectively addressing safe havens, and to identify and mitigate money-laundering risks linked to new technologies, as well as emerging money-laundering methods and techniques, by using, inter alia, existing United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime technical assistance tools;

75. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen coordinated border management strategies, as well as the capacity of border control and law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies, including through technical assistance, upon request, including, and where appropriate, the provision of equipment and technology, along with necessary training and maintenance support, in order to prevent, monitor and counter trafficking in drugs, trafficking in precursors and other drug-related crimes, such as trafficking in firearms, illicit financial flows, smuggling of bulk cash and money-laundering;

76. *Also encourages* Member States to use existing subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms to combat all forms of drug-related crime, wherever committed, including, in some cases, violent crimes related to gangs, including by enhancing international cooperation to successfully counter and dismantle organized criminal groups, including those operating transnationally;

77. *Calls upon* Member States to also consider, when developing comprehensive policies to tackle the world drug problem, measures, programmes and actions that address the needs of those affected by drug-related violence and crime;

78. *Reaffirms* the importance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and its field offices in building capacity at the local level in the fight against transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, and encourages the Office to maintain an effective level of support for national and regional efforts in countering the world drug problem;

79. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to collaborate with relevant intergovernmental, international and regional organizations involved in addressing the world drug problem, as appropriate, in order to share best practices and scientific standards and to maximize the benefits from their unique comparative advantage;

80. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close cooperation with Member States and pertinent United Nations entities, intergovernmental and regional organizations and, when appropriate, the scientific

community and civil society, to continue to support Member States, upon request, in strengthening their capacity to develop their reporting mechanisms, including by identifying gaps in the current drug statistics and by exploring possibilities to strengthen existing data-collection and analysis tools at the national level;

81. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close cooperation with Member States, to reflect on possibilities for strengthening and streamlining its existing data-collection and analysis tools, including improving and strengthening the quality, response rate and effectiveness of the annual report questionnaire, and to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on possible ways to enhance these, for consideration by the Commission at its sixty-second session, and invites Member States to provide extrabudgetary resources for these purposes;

82. *Welcomes* Statistical Commission decision 48/110 of 10 March 2017 on statistics on drugs and drug use[20] and further encourages collaboration between the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, within their mandates, to exchange information on the latest data trends on the world drug problem and stresses the need for national statistical capacity-building to support Member States in improving the quality and availability of drug statistics and also to respond effectively to data collection requests from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and invites international and regional organizations to support Member States in this regard, upon their request;

83. *Invites* Member States to invest, where necessary and taking into account specific needs and available resources, in capacity-building and quality-enhancing activities for the collection and reporting of information, to participate in joint cooperation efforts organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by other national, regional or international organizations and bodies, aimed at the exchange of technical knowledge of experts in the area of data collection, analysis and evaluation and of practical experience in the area of drug data, and to regularly report data and information relating to all aspects of the world drug problem to the Office through the annual report questionnaires, and invites the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the central policymaking body of the United Nations system on drug-related matters, to strengthen the capacity of the Office to collect, analyse, use and disseminate accurate, reliable, objective and comparable data and to reflect such information in the *World Drug Report*;

84. *Encourages* Member States to promote data collection, research and the sharing of information, as well as the exchange of best practices on preventing and countering drug-related crime and on drug supply reduction measures and practices, in order to enhance the effectiveness of criminal justice responses, within the framework of applicable law;

85. *Invites* Member States to consider the need to review the set of national drug policy metrics and tools for the collection and analysis of accurate, reliable, disaggregated, comprehensive and comparable data to measure the effectiveness of programmes to address all relevant aspects of the world drug problem, including, as appropriate, as related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

86. *Reiterates* the commitment of Member States to improve the availability and quality of statistical information and analysis of illicit drug cultivation, production and manufacturing, drug trafficking, money-laundering and illicit financial flows, including for appropriate reflection in reports of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board, in order to

[20] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 4* (E/2017/24), chap. I, sect. C.

better measure and evaluate the impact of such crimes and to further enhance the effectiveness of criminal justice responses in that regard;

87. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its efforts to support States in establishing, upon request, the operational frameworks essential for communication within and across national borders and to facilitate the exchange of information on and analysis of drug trafficking trends, with a view to increasing knowledge about the world drug problem at the national, regional and international levels, recognizes the importance of integrating laboratories and providing scientific support to drug control frameworks and of treating quality analytical data as a primary source of information worldwide, and urges coordination with other international entities, including the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL);

88. *Requests* all Member States to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime by widening its donor base, as appropriate, and increasing voluntary contributions, in particular general-purpose contributions, so as to enable it to continue, expand, improve and strengthen, within its mandates, its operational and technical cooperation activities, including with a view to assisting Member States with the full implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, relevant resolutions adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly;

89. *Expresses concern* regarding the overall financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, emphasizes the need to provide the Office with adequate, predictable and stable resources and to ensure their cost-effective utilization, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to report, within existing reporting obligations, on the financial situation of the Office and to continue to ensure that the Office has sufficient resources to carry out its mandates fully and effectively;

90. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to address the above-mentioned issues within the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the Office in order for the Office to fulfil its mandate effectively, efficiently and with the appropriate resources;

91. *Encourages* the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the principal policymaking organ of the United Nations on matters of international drug control and as the governing body of the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the International Narcotics Control Board to strengthen their useful work on the control of precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

92. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen national and international action to address the emerging challenge of new psychoactive substances, including their adverse health consequences, and the evolving threat of amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, underscores the importance of enhancing information-sharing and early warning networks, developing appropriate national legislative, prevention and treatment models and supporting scientific evidence-based review and scheduling of the most prevalent, persistent and harmful substances, and notes the importance of preventing the diversion and misuse of pharmaceuticals containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and precursors while ensuring their availability for legitimate purposes;

93. *Urges* States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, and States parties to implement, as a matter of priority, all the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[6] the

Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[7] the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[8] the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto[21] and the United Nations Convention against Corruption;[22]

94. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide, in close collaboration with the International Narcotics Control Board, as may be appropriate, adequate support and technical assistance to Governments in all regions so as to enable them to implement and fully meet their obligations under conventions and give adequate follow-up to subsequent resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, including for the strengthening of regulatory authorities and controls, provision of information and fulfilment of reporting requirements, and urges donors to contribute to the Office for those purposes;

95. *Takes note* of the resolutions adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixtieth session[5] and the *World Drug Report 2017*;

96. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen international and regional cooperation and coordination to counter the threat to the international community caused by the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs, especially those in the opioid group, as well as other aspects of the world drug problem, and to continue to take concerted measures within the framework of the Paris Pact[23] and other relevant regional and international initiatives and mechanisms, in order to strengthen cross-border cooperation and information exchange, with a view to countering drug trafficking, with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other international and regional organizations;

97. *Urges* Member States to continue to actively cooperate with the International Narcotics Control Board in the exercise of its mandate, and reiterates the need to ensure that an appropriate level of resources is made available to the Board to enable it to engage with Governments to effectively monitor compliance by States parties with the three international drug control conventions;

98. *Encourages* the continued contribution of the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies and of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation, and in this regard welcomes the discussions conducted in Vienna from 27 to 30 June 2017, Hurghada, Egypt, from 18 to 22 September 2017, Guatemala City from 2 to 6 October 2017, Beirut from 13 to 17 November 2017 and Bangkok from 27 to 30 November 2017;

99. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts to strengthen cooperation in addressing the world drug problem and to seek effectiveness and comprehensiveness in the strategies and policies undertaken by regional and subregional organizations and transregional initiatives;

100. *Reiterates its call upon* the relevant United Nations agencies and entities and other international organizations, and invites international financial institutions, including regional development banks, to mainstream efforts to counter the world drug problem into their programmes, and calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to maintain its leading role by providing relevant information and technical assistance;

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[21] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

[22] Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

[23] See S/2003/641, annex.

101. *Reiterates its call upon* Member States to take the steps necessary to implement the operational recommendations set out in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, in close partnership with the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations and civil society, the scientific community and academia, and to share with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, timely information on progress made in the implementation of the recommendations;

102. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies to identify operational recommendations in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly that fall within their area of specialization and to commence implementing the recommendations made in the outcome document that are within their existing mandates, in collaboration and cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board, keeping the Commission on Narcotic Drugs informed of programmes and progress made to achieve goals set out in the outcome document, and requests the Office to include, within its existing reporting obligations, a chapter regarding collaboration and coordination across the United Nations system in the global efforts to implement the recommendations adopted at the thirtieth special session;

103. *Encourages* the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to further increase cooperation and collaboration with all relevant United Nations entities and international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, when assisting Member States in designing and implementing comprehensive, integrated and balanced national drug strategies, policies and programmes;

104. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to increase efforts to pursue joint initiatives at the policy and programmatic levels with other relevant United Nations agencies and entities, within their existing mandates, as well as regional organizations, and to update and report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on progress, including on joint initiatives, at its upcoming sessions;

105. *Welcomes* the commencement of the follow-up to the implementation of the recommendations set out in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session through the intersessional process of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, encourages the Commission to continue working on and supporting Member States in the implementation and sharing of best practices corresponding to the seven thematic areas of the outcome document, and invites the Commission to examine how its subsidiary bodies can better contribute to the implementation of the outcome document, including by ensuring that the Commission is informed of regional and domestic concerns, developments and best practices arising from all stakeholders, including contributions from the scientific community, academia and civil society;

106. *Also welcomes* Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 60/1 of 17 March 2017 on preparations for the sixty-second session of the Commission in 2019,[24] in which the Commission decided, inter alia, to convene a ministerial segment during its sixty-second session to take stock of the implementation of the commitments made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem in the light of the 2019 target date set out in the Political Declaration,[2] and encourages the Commission to keep the General Assembly informed of developments in the process;

[24] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 8* (E/2017/28), chap. I; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2017/241.

107. *Encourages* all Member States to actively participate in the discussions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in preparation for the 2019 ministerial segment to foster an in-depth exchange of information and expertise on efforts, achievements, challenges and best practices to address and counter the world drug problem;

108. *Encourages* the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to include in its report to the Economic and Social Council a section on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly;

109. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[25] and requests that he submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

73rd plenary meeting
19 December 2017

[25] A/72/225.

United Nations A/RES/72/199

General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 January 2018

Seventy-second session
Agenda items 123 and 124

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/72/L.33)*]

72/199. Restructuring of the United Nations peace and security pillar

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming its determination to further strengthen the role, capacity, effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations system,

Reaffirming the respective role and authority of the General Assembly and the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter,

Recalling the relevant mandates, decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council,

Reaffirming the basic principles of United Nations peacekeeping,

Encouraging coherence, synergies and complementarities among the reform proposals for the peace and security pillar, management and the United Nations development system,

Commending the Secretary-General for his efforts to enhance the performance of the Secretariat's peace and security pillar,

Welcoming the consultations with Member States undertaken by the Secretary-General with respect to his reform proposal,

Taking note of the assurances provided by the Secretary-General in his report,[1] including, inter alia, that his reform proposal does not seek to change established mandates, functions or funding sources of the peace and security pillar,

[1] A/72/525.

17-23260 (E) 240118

Please recycle

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[1] and supports his vision for reforming the peace and security pillar;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, as soon as possible, a comprehensive report on his peace and security pillar reform proposal, elaborating on the establishment of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Department of Peace Operations, including detailed information on the proposed functions, structure and staffing requirements, for the consideration of and decision by the Assembly, in accordance with established procedures;

3. *Stresses* the need to take into account the views expressed by Member States, while ensuring accountability and transparency, and with due regard to the promotion of the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/200

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 January 2018

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 16

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/417)*]

72/200. Information and communications technologies for sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/183 of 21 December 2001, 57/238 of 20 December 2002, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 59/220 of 22 December 2004, 60/252 of 27 March 2006, 62/182 of 19 December 2007, 63/202 of 19 December 2008, 64/187 of 21 December 2009, 65/141 of 20 December 2010, 66/184 of 22 December 2011, 67/195 of 21 December 2012, 68/198 of 20 December 2013, 69/204 of 19 December 2014, 70/184 of 22 December 2015 and 71/212 of 21 December 2016,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/46 of 28 July 2006, 2008/3 of 18 July 2008, 2009/7 of 24 July 2009, 2010/2 of 19 July 2010, 2011/16 of 26 July 2011, 2012/5 of 24 July 2012, 2013/9 of 22 July 2013, 2014/27 of 16 July 2014, 2015/26 of 22 July 2015 and 2016/22 of 27 July 2016, and taking note of Council resolution 2017/21 of 6 July 2017 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

17-23261 (E) 220118

Please recycle

Recalling its resolution 70/299 of 29 July 2016 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003,[1] and endorsed by the General Assembly,[2] and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005,[3] and endorsed by the Assembly,[4]

Noting the references to information and communications technologies contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and reiterating calls for close alignment between the World Summit on the Information Society process and the 2030 Agenda, as well as other relevant intergovernmental outcomes,

Recalling the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,[5] held in New York on 15 and 16 December 2015, in which it took stock of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, addressed potential information and communications technology gaps and identified areas for continued focus,

Reaffirming its common desire and commitment to the World Summit on the Information Society vision as laid out in the Geneva Declaration of Principles,

Recognizing that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing new technologies, stressing the need to address prevailing challenges to bridge the digital divides, both between and within countries and between women and men, and between girls and boys, and to harness information and communications technologies for development, and recalling the need to emphasize quality of access to bridge digital and knowledge divides, using a multidimensional approach that includes speed, stability, affordability, language, local content and accessibility for persons with disabilities,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels,[6]

Noting the call for the continuation of annual reports on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, to the Economic and Social Council, and reaffirming the role of the Commission, as set forth in Council

[1] See A/C.2/59/3, annex.
[2] See resolution 59/220.
[3] See A/60/687.
[4] See resolution 60/252.
[5] Resolution 70/125.
[6] A/72/64-E/2017/12.

resolution 2006/46, in assisting the Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit,

Noting also the holding of the twentieth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in Geneva from 8 to 12 May 2017, and looking forward to the twenty-first session, which will include as a priority theme "Building digital competencies to benefit from existing and emerging technologies, with special focus on gender and youth dimensions", thus providing a platform for all stakeholders to share experiences and pursue partnerships for capacity-building,

Noting further the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum, jointly organized annually by the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Development Programme,

Taking note of the report of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development entitled *The State of Broadband 2017: Broadband Catalysing Sustainable Development*, which provides an evaluation of the progress made towards achieving the Broadband Commission's advocacy targets for broadband and the state of broadband development worldwide, noting the need to bridge digital divides, and taking note of the report of the special session of the Commission, entitled "Working together to connect the next 1.5 billion by 2020", in which the Commission noted that less than half the world's population is currently connected to the Internet and fewer than 1 in 10 people in the least developed countries are connected,

Taking note also of the Working Group on the Digital Gender Divide of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development and the recommendations for action in bridging the gender digital divide contained in its progress report, namely, understanding the context of the divide through sex-disaggregated data, integrating a gender perspective into strategies, policies, plans and budgets, addressing barriers, including access, affordability, safety, digital skills and relevance, and collaboration and sharing good practices, and taking note further of the report of the Working Group on Education of the Broadband Commission entitled "Digital skills for life and work", which highlights the emergence of a new global skills gap in which gender, class, geography and age can have a significant impact on whether a person is able to harness new technologies and presents strategies for ensuring that all groups of people can develop those skills,

Welcoming the holding of the first session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy in Geneva from 4 to 6 October 2017, and looking forward to its policy recommendations,

Recognizing the fact that information and communications technologies are critical enablers of economic development and investment, with consequential benefits for employment and social welfare, by lowering barriers to economic participation, and that the increasing pervasiveness of information and communications technologies within society has had profound impacts on the ways in which Governments deliver services, businesses relate to consumers and citizens participate in public and private life,

Stressing, however, that recent progress notwithstanding, important and growing digital divides remain between and within developed and developing countries in terms of the availability, affordability and use of information and communications technologies and access to broadband, stressing also the urgent need to close digital divides, including with regard to such issues as the affordability of the Internet, and to ensure that the benefits of information and communications technologies, including

new technologies, are available to all, in this regard reaffirming its commitment to significantly increase access to information and communications technologies and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in the least developed countries by 2020, and noting the many efforts to help bridge digital divides and expand access, including the Connect 2020 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/Information and Communications Technologies Development,

Noting with great concern the fact that a gender digital divide persists in women's access to and use of information and communications technologies, including in education, employment and other areas of economic and social development, and in this regard welcoming the many initiatives that focus on access, skills and leadership to promote the equal participation of women and girls in the digital age such as the International Girls in ICT Day of the International Telecommunication Union and the Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age, known as the Equals Partnership,

Recognizing the need to focus on capacity development policies and sustainable support to further enhance the impact of activities and initiatives at the national and local levels aimed at providing advice, services and support, with a view to building an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information society,

Noting that a range of topics continue to emerge on issues related to the access to, use and applications of information and communications technologies and their effects on economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development,

Reaffirming that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, and emphasizing that progress towards the vision of the World Summit on the Information Society should be considered not only as a function of economic development and the spreading of information and communications technologies but also as a function of progress with respect to the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming also that Internet governance, including the process towards enhanced cooperation and the convening of the Internet Governance Forum, should continue to follow the provisions set forth in the outcomes of the summits held in Geneva and Tunis,

Welcoming the efforts undertaken by the host countries in organizing the meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, held in Athens in 2006, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2007, in Hyderabad, India, in 2008, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in 2009, in Vilnius in 2010, in Nairobi in 2011, in Baku in 2012, in Bali, Indonesia, in 2013, in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2014, in João Pessoa, Brazil, in 2015, in Guadalajara, Mexico, in 2016, and in Geneva, in 2017,

Welcoming also the establishment of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation, based on the proposal by the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development regarding the structure and composition of the Working Group, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015 and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2017/21,

Noting that rapid technological advancements present opportunities and challenges, and that Governments, the private sector, international organizations, civil society and the technical and academic communities should take into account the social, economic, ethical, cultural and technical issues related to rapid technological advancements in order to understand how to harness their potential to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Reaffirming the value and principles of multi-stakeholder cooperation and engagement that have characterized the World Summit on the Information Society process since its inception, and recognizing that the effective participation, partnership and cooperation of Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders, within their respective roles and responsibilities, especially with balanced representation from developing countries, have been and continue to be vital in developing the information society,

Conscious of the challenges faced by States, in particular developing countries, in preventing and combating the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes, including by terrorists, and emphasizing the need to continue international cooperation in this regard and to reinforce technical assistance and capacity-building activities, at their request, for the prevention, prosecution and punishment of such use in accordance with national and international law,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

1. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies have the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges, particularly in the context of globalization, and can foster sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, trade and development, poverty eradication and social inclusion that will help to expedite the integration of all countries, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, into the global economy;

2. *Welcomes* the remarkable evolution and diffusion of information and communications technologies, underpinned by the contributions of both the public and private sectors, which have seen penetration into almost all corners of the globe, created new opportunities for social interactions, enabled new business models and contributed to economic growth and development in all other sectors, while noting the unique and emerging challenges related to their evolution and diffusion;

3. *Recognizes* the potential of information and communications technologies to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[7] and other internationally agreed development goals, noting that they can accelerate progress across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, accordingly urges all Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders to integrate information and communications technologies into their approaches to implementing the Goals, and requests United Nations entities facilitating the World Summit on the Information Society action lines to review their reporting and workplans to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

4. *Reaffirms* its commitment to bridging digital and knowledge divides, recognizes that its approach must be multidimensional and include an evolving understanding of what constitutes access, emphasizing the quality of that access, and acknowledges that speed, stability, affordability, language, local content and

[7] Resolution 70/1.

accessibility for persons with disabilities are now core elements of quality and that high-speed broadband is already an essential enabler of sustainable development;

5. *Stresses* the important role played by the private sector, civil society and technical communities in information and communications technologies;

6. *Encourages* strengthened and continuing cooperation between and among stakeholders from both developed and developing countries, within their respective roles and responsibilities, to ensure the effective implementation of the outcomes of the Geneva[1] and Tunis[3] phases of the World Summit on the Information Society, through, inter alia, the promotion of national, regional and international multi-stakeholder partnerships, including public-private partnerships, and the promotion of national and regional multi-stakeholder thematic platforms in a joint effort and dialogue with developing countries, including the least developed countries, development partners and actors in the information and communications technologies sector;

7. *Notes* the progress that has been made by United Nations entities in cooperation with national Governments, regional commissions and other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of the action lines contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society, and encourages the use of those action lines for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

8. *Also notes* that the digital economy is an important and growing part of the global economy and that connectivity is correlated with increases in gross domestic product, and recognizes the critical importance of expanding the participation of all countries, in particular developing countries, in the digital economy;

9. *Urges* a continued focus on maximizing development gains from e-commerce, through initiatives such as eTrade for All, launched at the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Nairobi from 17 to 22 July 2016, which provides a new approach to trade development through electronic exchanges by allowing developing countries to more easily navigate the supply of technical assistance for building capacity in e-commerce readiness and by enabling donors to have a clear picture of the programmes that they could fund;

10. *Recognizes* in this regard that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has initiated and implemented rapid eTrade readiness surveys of least developed countries in cooperation with other donors and organizations in order to raise awareness of opportunities and challenges related to leveraging e-commerce in the least developed countries;

11. *Also recognizes* that, despite recent progress and significant gains, there is still uneven growth in access to and use of information and communications technologies, and expresses concern over the substantial continued digital and broadband divides between and within developed and developing countries, including the fact that there are 90 mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 people in developed countries, compared with 41 in developing countries and less than 20 in the least developed countries, and that the cost of access is higher in developing countries in relation to average household income, resulting in a lack of affordable access to information and communications technologies;

12. *Encourages* research and development, and the development of viable strategies that could result in further competitiveness, investment and rapid reductions in the cost of information and communications technologies, and urges all relevant stakeholders to address the growing digital divides between and within

countries through, among other actions, strengthened enabling policy environments at all levels, legal and regulatory frameworks conducive to increased investment and innovation, public-private partnerships, universal access strategies and international cooperation to improve affordability, education, capacity-building, multilingualism, cultural preservation, investment and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms;

13. *Recognizes* that a gender digital divide persists, and that the proportion of women using the Internet is 12 per cent lower than that of men worldwide and 31 per cent lower in the least developed countries, notes with concern that, while the gender digital divide has narrowed in most regions since 2013, it has widened in Africa, in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to ensure the full participation of women in the information society and women's access to information and communications technologies for development, including new technologies, in this respect reiterates its request for relevant United Nations entities, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to support the implementation and monitoring of the action lines contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society by enhancing the emphasis on gender, and reaffirms the commitment to ensure women's full participation in decision-making processes related to information and communications technologies;

14. *Notes* the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional level, facilitated by the regional commissions, as observed in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels;[6]

15. *Encourages* the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, within their respective mandates and strategic plans, to contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and emphasizes the importance of allocating adequate resources in this regard;

16. *Acknowledges* the extension of the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum through 2025, as set out in the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;[5]

17. *Recognizes* the importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its mandate as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on various matters, as reflected in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society,[3] including discussion of public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to submit, as part of his annual reporting on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels, information on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum,[8] in particular those on enhancing the participation of developing countries;

18. *Stresses* the need for the enhanced participation of Governments and stakeholders from all developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in all meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, and in this regard invites Member States, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to support the participation of Governments and all other stakeholders from developing countries in the Forum itself, as well as in the preparatory meetings;

[8] A/67/65-E/2012/48 and A/67/65/Corr.1-E/2012/48/Corr.1.

19. *Notes* the ongoing work of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation to develop recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, and stresses the need for the Working Group to enable the full involvement of all Governments and other relevant stakeholders, in particular from developing countries, taking into account all their diverse views and expertise;

20. *Encourages* participants in the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation to take forward their efforts to fulfil its mandate by submitting a report to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its twenty-first session, which would serve as an input to the regular reporting of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;

21. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in engaging with and accessing new technologies, such as an appropriate enabling environment, sufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity, as well as issues related to technology ownership, setting standards and technology flows, and in this regard urges all stakeholders to ensure adequate means of implementation, including strengthened capacity-building of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, towards a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy;

22. *Also recognizes* the need to harness the potential of information and communications technologies as critical enablers of sustainable development and to overcome digital divides, and stresses that capacity-building for the productive use of such technologies should be given due consideration in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;[9]

23. *Notes* that, while a solid foundation for capacity-building in information and communications technologies has been laid in many areas with regard to building the information society, there is still a need for continuing efforts to address the ongoing challenges, especially for developing countries and the least developed countries, and draws attention to the positive impact of broadened capacity development that involves institutions, organizations and entities dealing with information and communications technologies and Internet governance issues;

24. *Recognizes* the importance of assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to address the challenges and opportunities in relation to the use of the Internet and e-commerce to develop their international trade capacities, among other things;

25. *Also recognizes* that a lack of access to affordable and reliable technologies and services remains a critical challenge in many developing countries, in particular African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries, countries in situations of conflict, post-conflict countries and countries affected by natural disasters, and that all efforts should be deployed to reduce the price of information and communications technologies and broadband access, bearing in mind that deliberate interventions, including through research and development and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, may be necessary to spur the development of lower-cost connectivity options;

26. *Further recognizes* the importance of the free flow of information and knowledge, as the amount of information distributed worldwide grows and the role

[9] Resolution 69/313, annex.

of communication becomes all the more important, and acknowledges that the mainstreaming of information and communications technologies in school curricula, open access to data, the fostering of competition, the creation of transparent, predictable, independent and non-discriminatory regulatory and legal systems, proportionate taxation and licensing fees, access to finance, the facilitation of public-private partnerships, multi-stakeholder cooperation, national and regional broadband strategies, efficient allocation of the radio frequency spectrum, infrastructure-sharing models, community-based approaches and public access facilities have in many countries facilitated significant gains in connectivity and sustainable development;

27. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to keep the goal of bridging digital divides, in their different forms, an area of priority concern, to put into effect sound strategies that contribute to the development of e-government and to continue to focus on pro-poor information and communications technology policies and applications, including access to broadband at the grass-roots level, with a view to narrowing the digital divides among and within countries and, in turn, building information and knowledge societies;

28. *Notes* the commitments made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and recognizes that official development assistance and other concessional financial flows for information and communications technologies can make significant contributions to development outcomes, in particular where they can reduce the risk of public and private investment, and increase the use of information and communications technologies to strengthen good governance and tax collection;

29. *Recognizes* the critical importance of private sector investment in information and communications technology infrastructure, content and services, encourages Governments to create legal and regulatory frameworks conducive to increased investment and innovation, and also recognizes the importance of public-private partnerships, universal access strategies and other approaches to that end;

30. *Welcomes* the holding of the second annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development, takes note of its intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations, looks forward to further advancement in the follow-up process, welcomes the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, the progress made in operationalizing the three components of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the holding of the second annual multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals;

31. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Economic and Social Council, a report on the status of the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the review process of the World Summit on the Information Society, the summary by the Co-Chairs of the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals[10] and other relevant processes, as part of his annual report on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels;

[10] E/HLPF/2017/4.

33. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session an item entitled "Information and communications technologies for sustainable development", unless otherwise agreed.

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/201

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 January 2018

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 17 (a)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/418/Add.1)*]

72/201. Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the relevant principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,[1] which states, inter alia, that no State may use or encourage the use of unilateral economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights,

Bearing in mind the general principles governing the international trading system and trade policies for development contained in relevant resolutions, rules and provisions of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization,

Recalling its resolutions 44/215 of 22 December 1989, 46/210 of 20 December 1991, 48/168 of 21 December 1993, 50/96 of 20 December 1995, 52/181 of 18 December 1997, 54/200 of 22 December 1999, 56/179 of 21 December 2001, 58/198 of 23 December 2003, 60/185 of 22 December 2005, 62/183 of 19 December 2007, 64/189 of 21 December 2009, 66/186 of 22 December 2011, 68/200 of 20 December 2013 and 70/185 of 22 December 2015,

Gravely concerned that the use of unilateral coercive economic measures adversely affects the economies and the development efforts of developing countries in particular and has a general negative impact on international economic cooperation and on worldwide efforts to move towards a non-discriminatory and open multilateral trading system,

[1] Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

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Recognizing that such measures constitute a flagrant violation of the principles of international law as set forth in the Charter, as well as the basic principles of the multilateral trading system,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

2. *Urges* the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries that are not authorized by relevant organs of the United Nations or are inconsistent with the principles of international law as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and that contravene the basic principles of the multilateral trading system;

3. *Calls upon* the international community to condemn and reject the imposition of the use of such measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to monitor the imposition of unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion and to study the impact of such measures on the affected countries, including the impact on trade and development;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017

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[2] A/72/307.

United Nations A/RES/72/202

General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 January 2018

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 17 (a)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/418/Add.1)*]

72/202. International trade and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/178 of 21 December 2001, 57/235 of 20 December 2002, 58/197 of 23 December 2003, 63/203 of 19 December 2008, 66/185 of 22 December 2011, 67/196 of 21 December 2012, 68/199 of 20 December 2013, 69/205 of 19 December 2014, 70/187 of 22 December 2015 and 71/214 of 21 December 2016,

Taking note of its resolutions 59/221 of 22 December 2004, 60/184 of 22 December 2005, 61/186 of 20 December 2006, 62/184 of 19 December 2007, 64/188 of 21 December 2009 and 65/142 of 20 December 2010,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

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Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development[1] and the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

2. *Reaffirms* that international trade is an engine for inclusive growth and poverty reduction and that it contributes to the promotion of sustainable development;

3. *Also reaffirms* the commitments made through the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development[3] in, inter alia, international trade as an important action area for sustainable development;

4. *Recommits* to promoting a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, as well as meaningful trade liberalization;

5. *Welcomes* the convening of the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization in Buenos Aires from 10 to 13 December 2017, looks forward to a successful outcome and expresses its appreciation to the Government of Argentina for hosting the meeting;

6. *Takes note* of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and its outcome documents;[4]

7. *Urges* the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral economic, financial or trade measures that are not authorized by relevant organs of the United Nations, that are inconsistent with the principles of international law or the Charter of the United Nations or that contravene the basic principles of the multilateral trading system and that affect in particular, but not exclusively, developing countries;

8. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-third session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item entitled "International trade and development", unless otherwise agreed.

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017

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[1] A/72/15 (Part I), A/72/15 (Part II), A/72/15 (Part III), A/72/15 (Part IV) and A/72/15 (Part V).
[2] A/72/274.
[3] Resolution 69/313, annex.
[4] TD/519, TD/519/Add.1, TD/519/Add.2 and TD/519/Add.2/Corr.1.

United Nations A/RES/72/203

General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 January 2018

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 17 (b)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/418/Add.2)*]

72/203. International financial system and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/186 of 20 December 2000 and 56/181 of 21 December 2001, entitled "Towards a strengthened and stable international financial architecture responsive to the priorities of growth and development, especially in developing countries, and to the promotion of economic and social equity", as well as its resolutions 57/241 of 20 December 2002, 58/202 of 23 December 2003, 59/222 of 22 December 2004, 60/186 of 22 December 2005, 61/187 of 20 December 2006, 62/185 of 19 December 2007, 63/205 of 19 December 2008, 64/190 of 21 December 2009, 65/143 of 20 December 2010, 66/187 of 22 December 2011, 67/197 of 21 December 2012, 68/201 of 20 December 2013, 69/206 of 19 December 2014, 70/188 of 22 December 2015 and 71/215 of 21 December 2016,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong

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political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] its resolution 56/210 B of 9 July 2002, in which it endorsed the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[2] the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[3] Agenda 21,[4] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21[5] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[6]

Recalling also the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,[7]

Recalling further the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,[8]

Taking note of the work of the United Nations in the area of external debt sustainability and development,

Recalling the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled "The future we want",[9]

Recognizing the work undertaken by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly to follow up on the issues contained in the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, and taking note of its progress report,[10]

Recalling the high-level thematic debate on the state of the world economy and finance and its impact on development, convened by the President of the General Assembly on 17 and 18 May 2012,

Recalling also the meeting of the Second Committee, held pursuant to resolution 67/197, on 13 November 2013, to discuss actions in response to the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development and prospects for restoring confidence and economic growth,

Appreciating the fact that the Summit of the Group of 20, held in Hangzhou, China, on 4 and 5 September 2016, the first Summit of the Group of 20 to take place in a developing country following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the broad participation of developing countries, and including the Chair of the Group of 77, endorsed the Group of 20 Action Plan on the 2030

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[1] Resolution 55/2.

[2] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

[5] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[6] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[7] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[8] Resolution 63/303, annex.

[9] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[10] A/64/884.

Agenda for Sustainable Development as an important contribution to the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda, recalling that the Summit of the Group of 20, held in Hamburg, Germany, on 7 and 8 July 2017, endorsed the Hamburg Update: Taking Forward the Group of 20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and looking forward to their implementation, while urging the Group of 20 to continue to engage in an inclusive and transparent manner with other States Members of the United Nations in its work in order to ensure that the initiatives of the Group of 20 complement or strengthen the United Nations system,

Noting the holding of the twenty-first Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 1 to 3 June 2017,

Recognizing that the remaining effects of the world financial and economic crisis have the potential to undermine the progress towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and threaten debt sustainability in many countries, especially developing countries,

Recalling the commitment to work in solidarity on a coordinated and comprehensive global response to address the remaining effects of the world financial and economic crisis on development and to take actions aimed at, inter alia, improving confidence, sustaining economic growth and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including young people and people with disabilities, and stressing the need to avoid the recurrence of a world financial and economic crisis, including by addressing the lessons learned, and to continue to promote the global economic stability and underlying institutional reforms required to ensure sustained, inclusive and sustainable global economic growth for the benefit of all countries, towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Expressing concern about the adverse impact of the continuing fragility of the global economy and the slow pace of the restoration of global growth and trade, including the impact on development, cognizant that the global economy remains in a challenging phase, with many downside risks, including net negative capital flows from some emerging and developing economies, continued low commodity prices, high unemployment, particularly among young people, and rising private and public indebtedness in many developing countries, and stressing the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system while implementing the reforms agreed upon to date to attend to these challenges and to make progress towards sustaining global demand,

Reaffirming the purposes of the United Nations, as set forth in its Charter, including to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of common ends, and reiterating the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting development,

Emphasizing that the international financial system should bolster sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, sustainable development and job creation, promote financial inclusion and support efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and hunger, in particular in developing countries, while allowing for the coherent mobilization of all sources of financing for development,

Recognizing the importance of scaling up international tax cooperation, and in this regard welcoming the work of the Committee of Experts on International

Cooperation in Tax Matters and the support to tax authorities of developing countries through the Addis Tax Initiative, which contribute to the mobilization of domestic resources for the Sustainable Development Goals and the curbing of illicit financial flows and tax evasion,

Recognizing also the need to reduce mechanistic reliance on credit-rating agency assessments, including in regulations, and to promote increased competition as well as measures to avoid conflict of interest in the provision of credit ratings in order to improve the quality of ratings, acknowledging the efforts of the Financial Stability Board and others in this area, expressing support for establishing greater transparency requirements for evaluation standards of credit-rating agencies, and affirming the commitment to continue ongoing work on these issues,

Recognizing further the contribution of the first and second Panel of Eminent Persons of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the context of the United Nations sustainable development pillar and United Nations reform, as well as the contribution of the United Nations system to sustainable finance and investments in the Sustainable Development Goals, and recognizing the contribution of the independent team of advisers to the Economic and Social Council dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Acknowledging that the quota and governance reforms agreed at the International Monetary Fund in 2010 became effective in January 2016, and acknowledging also that, in October 2016, the Chinese renminbi officially became the fifth currency in the special drawing rights basket, pursuant to the decision taken by the Executive Board of the Fund in November 2015,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[11]

2. *Recognizes* the need to continue and intensify efforts to enhance the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems, reiterates the importance of ensuring their openness, fairness and inclusiveness in order to complement national efforts to ensure sustainable development, including strong, sustained, balanced, inclusive and equitable economic growth and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[12] and encourages the international financial institutions to align their programmes and policies with the 2030 Agenda in accordance with their mandates;

3. *Notes* that the United Nations, on the basis of its universal membership and legitimacy, provides a unique and key forum for discussing international economic issues and their impact on development, and reaffirms that the United Nations is well positioned to participate in various reform processes aimed at improving and strengthening the effective functioning of the international financial system and architecture, while recognizing that the United Nations and the international financial institutions have complementary mandates that make the coordination of their actions crucial;

4. *Recognizes* the important efforts undertaken nationally, regionally and internationally to respond to the challenges posed by the latest global financial and economic crisis, and also recognizes that more needs to be done in order to promote the economic recovery, to manage the consequences of volatility in global financial and commodity markets, to tackle high unemployment and indebtedness in several countries, as well as widespread fiscal strains, to reinforce the banking sector,

[11] A/72/306.
[12] Resolution 70/1.

including by increasing its transparency and accountability, to address systemic fragilities and imbalances, to reform and strengthen the international financial system and to continue and to enhance the coordination of financial and economic policies at the international level;

5. *Stresses* the critical importance of a stable and inclusive global economic environment for the advancement of sustainable development, for the reliable and effective financing of development and for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, mobilizing public and private, as well as domestic and international resources;

6. *Recognizes* the importance, in particular, of new and emerging challenges and vulnerabilities in regard to developing country external debt sustainability arising from structural changes to overall debt composition, the rapid growth of private sector debt in many emerging and developing countries and the growing use of new debt financing instruments and approaches;

7. *Reiterates* that debtors and creditors must work together to prevent and resolve unsustainable debt situations and that maintaining sustainable debt levels is the responsibility of the borrowing countries, acknowledging, however, that lenders also have a responsibility to lend in a way that does not undermine a country's debt sustainability, and in this regard takes note of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development principles on responsible sovereign lending and borrowing and recognizes the applicable requirements of the International Monetary Fund debt limits policy and/or the World Bank non-concessional borrowing policy, as well as the safeguards of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in its statistical system to enhance the debt sustainability of recipient countries, and will work towards a global consensus on guidelines for debtor and creditor responsibilities in borrowing by and lending to sovereigns, building on existing initiatives;

8. *Invites*, in this regard, the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General to give appropriate consideration to the central role of maintaining and facilitating the financial and macroeconomic stability of developing countries, including debt sustainability, and of supporting an appropriately enabling domestic and international economic, financial and regulatory environment for the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this regard invites all major institutional stakeholders, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to support these efforts, in accordance with their respective mandates;

9. *Encourages*, in this regard, the Economic and Social Council to consider, at its annual forum on financing for development follow-up, a discussion and analysis of systemic issues and challenges, taking into account the roles of the international financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in accordance with their respective mandates, pursuant to the relevant resolutions on this matter, including its resolution 69/313 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the mandate of the annual forum on financing for development follow-up set out therein;

10. *Resolves* to strengthen the coherence and consistency of multilateral financial, investment, trade and development policy and environment institutions and platforms and to increase cooperation between major international institutions, while respecting mandates and governance structures, and commits itself to taking better advantage of relevant United Nations forums for promoting universal and holistic coherence and international commitments to sustainable development, building on the vision of the Monterrey Consensus;

11. *Affirms* the importance of ensuring the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems, with a view to supporting the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

12. *Recalls* that countries must have the flexibility necessary to implement countercyclical measures and pursue tailored and targeted responses to the various types of shocks, including economic and financial crises, and calls for conditionalities to be streamlined to ensure that they are timely, tailored and targeted and that they support developing countries in the face of financial, economic and development challenges;

13. *Notes*, in this regard, the increase in resources and the improvement of the lending framework of the International Monetary Fund through, inter alia, streamlined conditions and flexible instruments, such as the precautionary and liquidity line, the flexible credit line and the rapid financing instrument, and the refinement of the lending framework for low-income countries, while also noting that new and ongoing programmes should not contain unwarranted procyclical conditionalities;

14. *Encourages*, in this regard, the multilateral development banks to continue to move forward on flexible, concessional, fast-disbursing and front-loaded assistance that will substantially and quickly assist developing countries facing financing gaps in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, taking into consideration the individual absorptive capacities and debt sustainability of those countries;

15. *Also encourages* multilateral development banks, within their respective mandates, to continue to expand technical assistance, disseminate and share their knowledge and best practices and enhance the multiplier effect of their financing by leveraging more resources from more sources, including by mobilizing private investment, to provide innovative and integral solutions to multidimensional development problems, in particular in developing and emerging economies;

16. *Invites* the multilateral development banks and other international development banks to continue providing both concessional and non-concessional stable, long-term development finance by leveraging contributions and capital and by mobilizing resources from capital markets, and stresses that development banks should make optimal use of their resources and balance sheets, consistent with maintaining their financial integrity, and should update and develop their policies in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, as appropriate;

17. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the ongoing work of the New Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in the global development finance architecture, and encourages enhanced regional and subregional cooperation, including through regional and subregional development banks, commercial and reserve currency arrangements and other regional and subregional initiatives;

18. *Emphasizes* the relevance of inclusion in the international financial system at all levels and the importance of considering financial inclusion as a policy objective in financial regulation, in accordance with national priorities and legislation;

19. *Recommits* to the broadening and strengthening of the voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting and in global economic governance, recognizes that it is important that the International Monetary Fund continue to be adequately resourced, and supports

and reiterates its commitment to further governance reform at both the Fund and the World Bank to adapt to changes in the global economy;

20. *Calls for* the completion of the fifteenth general review of quotas of the International Monetary Fund, including a new quota formula, at the meetings of the Fund and the World Bank Group to be held in the spring of 2019, and no later than at the annual meetings of the Fund and the Group in 2019, emphasizes that the new quota formula, as a basis for a realignment of quota shares, will result in increased shares for dynamic economies in line with their relative positions in the world economy and hence likely in the share of emerging market and developing countries as a whole, while protecting the voice and representation of the poorest members, and supports the continued examination of the broader use of special drawing rights as a way to enhance the resilience of the international monetary system;

21. *Acknowledges* the importance of the international financial institutions supporting, in line with their mandates, the policy space of each country, while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments, in particular developing countries, and recommits to the broadening and strengthening of the voice and participation of developing countries, including African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, middle-income countries and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, in international economic decision-making, norm-setting and global economic governance;

22. *Recognizes* that there are continued risks to financial stability, which suggests a need to continue to implement agreed reforms of the international financial and monetary system;

23. *Reaffirms* that cohesive, nationally owned sustainable development strategies, supported by integrated national financing frameworks, will be at the heart of efforts, reiterates that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, expresses respect for each country's policy space and leadership to implement policies for the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions and for sustainable development, while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments, at the same time recognizes that national development efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, including coherent and mutually supporting world trade, monetary and financial systems and strengthened and enhanced global economic governance, and that processes to develop and facilitate the availability of appropriate knowledge and technologies globally, as well as capacity-building, are also critical, and commits to pursuing policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors, and to reinvigorating the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development;

24. *Recommits* to a redoubling of its efforts to substantially curb illicit financial flows by 2030, with a view to eventually eliminating them, including by combating tax evasion, transnational organized crime and corruption through strengthened national regulation and increased international cooperation, to reducing opportunities for tax avoidance and considering inserting anti-abuse clauses in all tax treaties, to enhancing disclosure practices and transparency in both source and destination countries, including by seeking to ensure transparency in all financial transactions between Governments and companies, with respect to relevant tax authorities, and to making sure that all companies, including multinationals, pay taxes to the Governments of the countries where economic activity occurs and value is created, in accordance with national and international laws and policies;

25. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue its existing programme of meetings and consultations with Member States on investment agreements and investment policies that promote a better understanding of issues related to international investment agreements and their development dimensions, in accordance with its mandate;

26. *Recognizes* the role of special drawing rights as an international reserve asset, acknowledges that special drawing rights allocations helped to supplement international reserves in response to the world financial and economic crisis, thus contributing to the stability of the international financial system and global economic resilience, and also recognizes the need to continue to review the role and the broader use of special drawing rights in enhancing the resilience of the international monetary system, including with reference to their potential role in the international reserve system;

27. *Takes note* of the work by the Financial Stability Board on financial market reform, commits to sustaining or strengthening frameworks for macroprudential regulation and countercyclical buffers, reaffirms the commitment to hasten completion of the reform agenda on financial market regulation, including assessing and if necessary reducing the systemic risks associated with shadow banking, markets for derivatives, securities lending and repurchase agreements, and also reaffirms the commitment to addressing the risk created by "too-big-to-fail" financial institutions and to addressing cross-border elements in effective resolution of troubled, systemically important financial institutions;

28. *Reiterates* that effective, inclusive multilateral surveillance should be at the centre of crisis prevention efforts, stresses the need to continue to strengthen surveillance of the financial policies of countries, and in this regard notes the current efforts to update the surveillance approach of the International Monetary Fund to better integrate bilateral and multilateral surveillance, along with cross-border and cross-sectoral linkages with macroeconomic and macroprudential policies, while paying closer attention to the spillover effects from national economic and financial policies onto the global economy;

29. *Also reiterates* the need to resolve to reduce mechanistic reliance on credit-rating agency assessments, including in regulations and to promote increased competition as well as measures to avoid conflict of interest in the provision of credit ratings;

30. *Invites* the international financial and banking institutions to continue to enhance the transparency of risk-rating mechanisms, noting that sovereign risk assessments should maximize the use of objective and transparent parameters, which can be facilitated by high-quality data and analysis, and encourages relevant institutions, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to continue their work on the issue, including the potential impact of the role played by private credit rating agencies on the development prospects of developing countries, in accordance with their mandates;

31. *Welcomes* efforts by new development banks to develop safeguard systems in open consultation with stakeholders on the basis of established international standards, and encourages all development banks to establish or maintain social and environmental safeguard systems, including on human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, that are transparent, effective, efficient and time-sensitive;

32. *Recognizes* the need for the international financial institutions, as appropriate, to promote gender mainstreaming in their policies and programmes,

including macroeconomic, job creation and structural reform policies and programmes, in accordance with relevant national priorities and strategies;

33. *Urges* multilateral donors, and invites international financial institutions and regional development banks, within their respective mandates, to review and implement policies that support national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reaches women and girls, in particular in rural and remote areas;

34. *Recommits* itself to enabling women's full and equal participation in the economy and their equal access to decision-making processes and leadership;

35. *Reiterates* that States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries;[1]

36. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution to be prepared with input from the major institutional stakeholders, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in accordance with their respective mandates;

37. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item entitled "International financial system and development", unless otherwise agreed.

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017

[1] Resolution 3201 (S-VI).

United Nations A/RES/72/204

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Agenda item 17 (c)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/418/Add.3)*]

72/204. External debt sustainability and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/203 of 23 December 2003, 59/223 of 22 December 2004, 60/187 of 22 December 2005, 61/188 of 20 December 2006, 62/186 of 19 December 2007, 63/206 of 19 December 2008, 64/191 of 21 December 2009, 65/144 of 20 December 2010, 66/189 of 22 December 2011, 67/198 of 21 December 2012, 68/202 of 20 December 2013, 69/207 of 19 December 2014, 70/190 of 22 December 2015 and 71/216 of 21 December 2016,

Noting the work of the United Nations in this area,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

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Welcoming the Paris Agreement[1] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[2] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,[3]

Emphasizing that debt sustainability is essential for underpinning growth, underlining the importance of debt sustainability and effective debt management to the efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and acknowledging that debt crises are costly and disruptive, including for employment and productive investment, and tend to be followed by cuts in public spending, including on health and education, affecting the poor and vulnerable in particular,

Reaffirming that each country has primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies, including in the area of debt management, is central to the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing that national efforts, including to achieve development goals and to maintain debt sustainability, should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty,

Reiterating that debt sustainability depends on a confluence of many factors at the international and national levels, and emphasizing that country-specific circumstances and the impact of external shocks, such as volatile commodity and energy prices and international capital flows, should continue to be taken into account in debt sustainability analyses,

Expressing concern about the adverse impact of the continuing fragility of the global economy and the slow pace of the restoration of global growth and trade, including the impact on development, cognizant that the global economy remains in a challenging phase, with many downside risks, including net negative capital flows from some emerging and developing economies, continued low commodity prices, high unemployment, in particular among young people, and rising private and public indebtedness in many developing countries, and stressing the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system while implementing the reforms agreed upon to date to attend to these challenges and to make progress towards sustaining global demand,

Recognizing the important role, on a case-by-case basis, of debt relief, including debt cancellation, as appropriate, and debt restructuring as debt crisis prevention, management and resolution tools,

Recognizing also that severe natural disasters and social or economic shocks can undermine a country's debt sustainability, and noting that public creditors have taken steps to ease debt repayment obligations through debt rescheduling and debt cancellation following an earthquake or a tsunami and in the context of the Ebola crisis in West Africa, and encouraging consideration of further debt relief steps,

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[1] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[3] Resolution 63/303, annex.

where appropriate, and/or other measures for countries affected in this regard, as feasible,

Expressing deep concern that a number of countries in special situations, in particular African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as some middle-income countries, face challenges in servicing their debt and that, in spite of international efforts, a growing number of developing countries continue to struggle with high debt burdens and are classified, in accordance with the debt sustainability assessments, as being in debt distress or at high risk of debt distress,

Recognizing that the remaining effects of the world financial and economic crisis have the potential to undermine the progress made towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and threaten debt sustainability in many countries, especially developing countries,

Taking note of the operational guidelines for sustainable financing promoted by the Group of 20, while urging the Group to continue to engage in an inclusive and transparent manner with other States Members of the United Nations in its work, in order to ensure that the initiatives of the Group complement or strengthen the United Nations system,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

2. *Emphasizes* the special importance of timely, effective, comprehensive and durable solutions to the debt problems of developing countries to promote their economic growth and development;

3. *Recognizes* the importance, in particular, of new and emerging challenges and vulnerabilities in regard to developing country external debt sustainability arising from structural changes to overall debt composition, the rapid growth of private sector debt in many emerging and developing countries and the growing use of new debt financing instruments and approaches;

4. *Notes* the growing concerns about fast-rising corporate debt, high-risk exposure to volatile international financial markets and fast-growing debt servicing burdens as potential triggers of financial and debt crises and the consequent need for coordinated policy responses;

5. *Stresses* the dual responsibility of creditors and debtor countries to avoid a build-up of unsustainable debt so as to reduce the risk of relapsing into another debt crisis, taking into account the challenges posed by the global economic environment and risks for debt sustainability in some developed and developing countries, and the need to continue to assist developing countries in this regard;

6. *Acknowledges* the role played by the Debt Sustainability Framework for Low-Income Countries, jointly developed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to guide borrowing and lending decisions, looks forward to the implementation of the updated Framework, and encourages open and transparent consultations, with the full engagement of public and private creditors and borrowers, with a view to incorporating their concerns, where appropriate;

7. *Reiterates* that no single indicator should be used to make definitive judgments about a country's debt sustainability, and, in view of the new challenges and vulnerabilities for developing countries' external debt sustainability, substantiated by the work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and recent joint analyses of the International Monetary Fund and the

[4] A/72/253.

World Bank, stresses the need for improved data collection and quality in areas that include domestic public debt, domestic and external private debt, as well as legal and regulatory features, such as ownership, currency denomination and jurisdiction according to national priorities;

8. *Also reiterates* that timely and comprehensive data on the level and composition of debt are necessary for, inter alia, building early warning systems aimed at limiting the impact of debt crises, calls for debtor and creditor countries to intensify their efforts to collect and release data, where appropriate, welcomes the ongoing work of relevant institutions to apply innovative tools for monitoring financial stress in developing countries and to create a central data registry that includes information on debt restructuring, and calls for donors to consider increasing their support for technical cooperation programmes aimed at increasing the statistical capacity of developing countries in that regard;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations system, including the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund and other relevant stakeholders, to continue to conduct analytical activities and to provide policy advice and technical assistance to Governments, upon request, in the areas of managing debt, and operating and maintaining databases, and in this regard recalls that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should continue its analytical and policy work and technical assistance on debt issues, including the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System Programme;

10. *Stresses* the need to strengthen information-sharing and transparency to make sure that debt sustainability assessments are based on comprehensive, objective and reliable data, including an assessment of national public and private debt, in order to ensure the achievement of sustainable development goals, encourages further improvement of the mutual exchange of information, on a voluntary basis, on borrowing and lending among all creditors and borrowers, and takes note of the Paris Forum initiative, which is aimed at gathering together sovereign creditors and debtors to share views and information;

11. *Recognizes* that the long-term sustainability of debt depends on, inter alia, economic growth, the mobilization of domestic and international resources, the export prospects of debtor countries, sustainable debt management, sound macroeconomic policies that also support job creation, transparent and effective regulatory frameworks and success in overcoming structural development problems, and hence on the creation of an enabling environment at all levels that is conducive to development, and also recognizes the need to assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability;

12. *Notes with concern* that some low- and middle-income developing countries that were not part of the existing debt relief initiatives now have large debt burdens that may create constraints on mobilizing the resources needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, indicating a need to consider, as appropriate, stronger debt management initiatives for those countries, and stresses the importance of medium- and long-term debt sustainability to deal with bilateral and non-Paris Club debt;

13. *Underlines* the fact that heavily indebted poor countries eligible for debt relief will not be able to enjoy the full benefits unless all creditors, both public and private, contribute to debt workouts, as appropriate, in order to ensure the debt sustainability of those countries, and invites creditors, both private and public, that are not yet fully participating in debt relief initiatives to substantially increase their participation, including through providing comparable treatment, to the extent possible, to debtor countries that have concluded sustainable debt relief agreements with creditors;

14. *Stresses* the need for the international community to remain vigilant in monitoring the debt situation of developing countries, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and to continue to take effective measures, preferably within existing frameworks, when applicable, to address the debt problem of those countries, acknowledges that sound debt management initiatives can play a key role in liberating resources that should be directed towards activities consistent with the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and with the promotion of sustained economic growth and development and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and in this regard urges countries to direct the resources freed through debt relief, in particular through debt cancellation and reduction, towards achieving those objectives, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[4] according to their national priorities and strategies;

15. *Notes* that countries can seek to negotiate, as a last resort, on a case-by-case basis and through existing frameworks, agreements on temporary debt standstills between debtors and creditors in order to help mitigate the adverse impacts of a debt crisis and stabilize macroeconomic developments;

16. *Acknowledges* the efforts of, and invites creditors to provide additional flexibility to, developing countries affected by natural disasters so as to allow them to address their national debt concerns, while taking into account their specific economic and social situations and needs;

17. *Recognizes* the importance of the creation of robust, nationally appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks for sustainable national and municipal borrowing, on the basis of sustainable debt management, supported by adequate revenues and capacities, by means of local creditworthiness, as well as expanded sustainable municipal debt markets, when appropriate, and in this regard underlines the importance of the establishment of appropriate financial intermediaries for urban financing, according to local circumstances, such as regional, national, subnational and local development funds or development banks, including pooled financing mechanisms, which can catalyse public and private, national and international financing;

18. *Underlines* the importance of multilateral efforts to tackle increasingly complex cross-border challenges that have serious effects on development and debt sustainability;

19. *Recognizes* the role of the United Nations and of the international financial institutions, in accordance with their respective mandates, and encourages them to continue to support global efforts towards sustained and inclusive growth, sustainable development and the external debt sustainability of developing countries, including through continued monitoring of global financial flows and their implications in this regard;

20. *Reiterates* that debtors and creditors must work together to prevent and resolve unsustainable debt situations and that maintaining sustainable debt levels is the responsibility of the borrowing countries, acknowledges that lenders also have a responsibility to lend in a way that does not undermine a country's debt sustainability, and in this regard takes note of the principles on responsible sovereign lending and borrowing of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, recognizes the applicable requirements of the debt limits policy of the International Monetary Fund and/or the non-concessional borrowing policy of the World Bank and the safeguards of the Development Assistance Committee of the

[4] Resolution 70/1.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in its statistical system to enhance the debt sustainability of recipient countries, and resolves to work towards a global consensus on guidelines for debtor and creditor responsibilities in borrowing by and lending to sovereigns, building on existing initiatives;

21. *Calls for* the intensification of efforts to prevent and mitigate the prevalence, cost and severity of debt crises by enhancing international financial mechanisms for crisis prevention and resolution, encourages the private sector to cooperate in this regard, and invites creditors and debtors to further explore, where appropriate and on a mutually agreed, transparent and case-by-case basis, the use of new and improved debt instruments such as debt swaps, including debt for equity in projects aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as debt indexation instruments;

22. *Notes* the holding of the eleventh International Debt Management Conference by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and encourages the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue its analytical and policy work and technical assistance on debt issues and to promote policies for responsible sovereign borrowing and lending, complementing the work done by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and other stakeholders, as appropriate;

23. *Expresses its concern* regarding the ability of non-cooperative minority bondholders to disrupt the will of the large majority of bondholders who accept a restructuring of a debt-crisis country's obligations, given the potential broader implications in other countries, notes legislative steps taken by certain countries to prevent these activities and encourage all Governments to take action, as appropriate, and furthermore, takes note of discussions in the United Nations on debt issues;

24. *Encourages* Governments to be mindful of the ability of non-cooperative minority bondholders to block a restructuring of a debt-crisis country's obligations, and encourages debtors and creditors to work together to draft bond agreements accordingly;

25. *Welcomes* the reforms to pari passu and collective action clauses proposed by the International Capital Market Association and endorsed by the International Monetary Fund to reduce the vulnerability of sovereigns to holdout creditors, encourages countries to take further action to include those clauses in all their bond issuances, and welcomes the continued work of the International Monetary Fund to monitor the uptake of the clauses and explore options for resolving the issue with the outstanding stock of debt without such clauses;

26. *Notes* that the United Nations, as a universal intergovernmental body, has provided a platform for both creditors and debtors to discuss ways to improve external debt sustainability, encourages the annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up to continue such discussions, within its mandate, and in this regard invites continued ongoing cooperation among the international financial institutions, including the Bretton Woods institutions, in particular the International Monetary Fund, relevant United Nations entities, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and other relevant forums, in accordance with their respective mandates, pursuant to the relevant resolutions on this matter;

27. *Welcomes* the establishment and terms of reference of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and in this regard requests that the

outcome of its work be presented as a regular input to the forum on financing for development follow-up;

28. *Reiterates* the invitation to the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General to give appropriate consideration to the central role of maintaining and facilitating the financial and macroeconomic stability of developing countries, including debt sustainability, and of supporting an appropriately enabling domestic and international economic, financial and regulatory environment for the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this regard invites all major institutional stakeholders, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to support these efforts, in accordance with their respective mandates;

29. *Invites* donor countries, taking into account country-specific debt sustainability analyses, to continue their provision of concessional and grant-based financing to developing countries, which could contribute to debt sustainability in the medium to long term, and notes the provision by the International Monetary Fund of interest relief to eligible developing countries in the form of zero-interest loans;

30. *Invites* the international community to continue efforts to increase support, including financial and technical assistance, for institutional capacity-building in developing countries to enhance sustainable upstream and downstream debt management as an integral part of national development strategies, including by promoting transparent and accountable debt management systems and negotiation and renegotiation capacities and through supporting legal advice in relation to tackling external debt litigation and debt data reconciliation between creditors and debtors so that debt sustainability may be achieved and maintained;

31. *Requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and invites the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, in cooperation with the regional commissions, regional development banks and other relevant multilateral financial institutions and stakeholders, to continue and intensify cooperation in respect of activities relating to capacity-building and to early warning monitoring systems in developing countries in the area of debt management and debt sustainability, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

32. *Calls upon* all Member States and the United Nations system to take appropriate measures and actions for the implementation of the commitments, agreements and decisions of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in particular those related to the question of the external debt sustainability of developing countries;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-third session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to include in his report an assessment of the potential impact of investment requirements to meet the Sustainable Development Goals on developing countries' external debt sustainability, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item entitled "External debt sustainability and development", unless otherwise agreed.

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/205

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[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/418/Add.4)*]

72/205. Commodities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 59/224 of 22 December 2004, 61/190 of 20 December 2006, 63/207 of 19 December 2008, 64/192 of 21 December 2009, 66/190 of 22 December 2011, 68/203 of 20 December 2013 and 70/191 of 22 December 2015 on commodities,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by Heads of State and Government on 8 September 2000,[1] the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted on 16 September 2005[2] and its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Recalling implementation target 2.c under Sustainable Development Goal 2 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the aim of which is to adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and

[1] Resolution 55/2.
[2] Resolution 60/1.

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to facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help to limit extreme food price volatility, and implementation target 9.b under Goal 9 of the 2030 Agenda, the aim of which is to support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities,

Recalling also the Sendai Declaration[3] and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[4]

Noting the ongoing efforts to implement the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted in May 2011 at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,[5] the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, adopted in September 2014 at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States,[6] and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, adopted in November 2014 at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries,[7] and recognizing the special challenges facing middle-income countries,

Noting also the holding of the one-day informal interactive dialogue on commodity markets in New York on 16 May 2016, from which resulted a set of conclusions and observations aimed at cushioning the adverse impact of excessive commodity price volatility on global sustainable development efforts,

Reaffirming the importance of supporting Agenda 2063 of the African Union, as well as its first 10-year implementation plan, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and regional initiatives,

Taking note of the targets set out in the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security, held in Rome from 16 to 18 November 2009,[8] which reaffirms the pledge to end hunger and poverty,

Noting the High-level Task Force on Global Food and Nutrition Security, supporting the Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge initiative, initiated in 2012, and the twin-track approach enunciated in the updated comprehensive framework for action produced by the United Nations system High-level Task Force on Global Food and Nutrition Security in September 2010,

Recalling the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,[9]

Recalling also the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which

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[3] Resolution 69/283, annex I.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

[5] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[6] Resolution 69/15, annex.

[7] Resolution 69/137, annex II.

[8] See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

[9] Resolution 63/303, annex.

is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling that, in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Heads of State and Government expressed concern about the excessive volatility of commodity prices, including for food and agriculture, and its consequences for global food security and improved nutrition outcomes, called for the adoption of measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and for the adoption by relevant regulatory bodies of measures to facilitate timely, accurate and transparent access to market information in an effort to ensure that commodity markets appropriately reflect underlying demand and supply changes and to help limit the excessive volatility of commodity prices, noted the Agricultural Market Information System hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and called for the provision of access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets, consistent with sustainable management practices as well as initiatives that add value to outputs from small-scale fishers,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[10] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[11] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Welcoming also the outcome of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,[12] and taking note of the decisions and agreed conclusions on commodities adopted by the Trade and Development Board and its subsidiary bodies in 2014, 2015 and 2016,

Taking note of the Arusha Declaration and Plan of Action on African Commodities, adopted at the African Union Conference of Ministers of Trade on Commodities, held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 21 to 23 November 2005, and endorsed by the Executive Council of the African Union at its eighth ordinary session, held in Khartoum from 16 to 21 January 2006,[13]

Recalling the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)[14] and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[15]

Taking note of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development "Commodities and development reports" of 2012 and of 2015, and noting the role that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has been playing as an institution in looking at the interaction between commodity markets and economic development and in the elaboration of the concept of commodity-dependent developing countries,

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[10] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[12] See TD/519, TD/519/Add.1, TD/519/Add.2 and TD/519/Add.2/Corr.1.

[13] See A/60/693, annex II, decision EX.CL/Dec.253 (VIII).

[14] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[15] Resolution 66/288, annex.

Deeply concerned by the fact that many commodity-dependent developing countries continue to be highly vulnerable to price fluctuations, and recognizing the need to continue efforts to diversify economies, as well as to improve the regulation, where appropriate, and the efficiency, responsiveness, functioning and transparency of financial and commodity markets nationally, regionally and internationally in order to address excessive commodity price volatility,

Expressing concern that the global economy has yet to recover completely and remains in a challenging phase, notwithstanding the recent cyclical pickup in global economic activity, that growth remains weak in many countries and includes subdued trade growth, volatile capital flows, widespread fiscal strains and unsustainable debt in some countries, particularly developing countries, and that commodity exporters are particularly hard hit owing to their continued adjustment to a sharp step-down in foreign earnings, recognizing that, while short-term risks are broadly balanced, medium-term risks are still tilted to the downside, and in this regard stressing the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances, to reform and strengthen the international financial system and to make further progress towards sustaining and rebalancing global demand,

Recognizing the adverse impact of excessive price volatility of commodities, especially on women, girls and young people,

Recognizing also that the structural constraints that women face as economic agents, including segmentation in low-value-added or subsistence-oriented work, unequal access to productive resources, limited access to training and skill-building due to gender segmentation in education and labour markets and a lack of resources, as well as the heavy burden of unpaid work, make women and girls especially vulnerable to the adverse impact of excessive price volatility of commodities,

Recognizing further that many developing countries continue to be highly dependent on primary commodities as their principal source of export revenues, employment, income generation and domestic savings and require additional sources of growth to become the driving force of investment, economic growth and social development, including poverty eradication, recognizing also the challenges and special needs of those countries, and stressing the critical importance of sustainable and inclusive industrial development for developing countries as a critical source of economic growth, economic diversification and value addition,

Recognizing that uncertainty in global commodity markets reinforces the need to comprehensively deal with the commodity problematique, inter alia, the demand for commodities, supply capacities, commodity revenues and investments in commodity-dependent economies, while taking due account of the diversity of each country's individual situation and needs and the promotion of their sustainable development, and to strengthen the nexus between, inter alia, trade, finance, investment in sustainable agriculture and food systems, energy and industrialization,

Noting the work on consensus-building on commodity-related issues achieved through meetings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, including the multi-year expert meetings on commodities and development, the Global Commodities Forum and the African Oil, Gas and Mines Trade and Finance Conference and Exhibition,

Recognizing the adverse impact of excessive price volatility of commodities on both producer and consumer countries, particularly commodity-dependent developing countries,

Noting the recent and marked reversal in commodity prices and that commodity net export economies may need to adjust to a possibly protracted period of lower export and fiscal revenues,

Noting also the volatility and unpredictability of commodity prices, which have threatened, inter alia, the food security of net importers in the recent past, and noting further that the continuation of this long-term uncertainty and volatility, intensified by recent trends in commodity prices, can have an impact on the capacities of many developing countries, particularly commodity-dependent countries, to continue to implement policies for achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication,

Stressing the importance of policies to address longer-term structural issues, including structural constraints faced by women as economic agents, to diversify commodity economies and to integrate commodity policies into wider development and poverty eradication strategies at all levels,

Noting all relevant voluntary initiatives aimed at improving transparency in commodity markets and mitigating the impact of excessive price volatility,

Underlining the importance of timely, accurate and transparent information in helping to address excessive food price volatility, noting global and regional initiatives, including the Agricultural Market Information System and its Rapid Response Forum, the joint organization data initiative and other regional data platforms and programmes, and urging the participating international organizations, private sector actors and Governments to ensure the public dissemination of timely and quality food market information products,

Expressing deep concern at the adverse impact of climate change and extreme weather patterns on access to, and the utilization and prices of, agricultural commodities,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on world commodity trends and prospects;[39]

2. *Recognizes* the interlinkage between the adequate and transparent functioning of commodity markets and the capacity of some commodity-dependent developing countries to collect appropriate fiscal revenues from commodity exports and mobilize domestic sources to support their sustainable development, mainly through sustainable and inclusive economic growth, industrialization, decent work and market diversification;

3. *Encourages* support for developing countries, according to their national plans and policies, through technical assistance, to increase their capacity in detecting and averting trade mispricing in their commodities sectors in order to enhance their benefits from those sectors to support sustainable growth and development;

4. *Reiterates* the need for further efforts to address excessive commodity price volatility, in particular by assisting producers, especially small-scale producers, including women, in accordance with national plans and policies, in managing risk;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of commodity-dependent developing countries to address the factors that create structural barriers to international trade and impede, inter alia, diversification, including tariff and non-tariff barriers, limited access to financial services resulting in scarce resources for investing in the commodity sector, weak infrastructure, particularly regarding both the cost and availability of transportation and storage, and lack of skills in producing and marketing alternative products;

6. *Looks forward* to the convening of the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization in Buenos Aires from 10 to 13 December 2017;

[39] A/72/254.

7. *Notes with concern* the slow and uneven recovery from the severe economic and financial crisis of 2008, despite the recent strengthening of global economic activity, since growth remains weak in many countries and agricultural and other commodity prices remain depressed while inequalities are rising, and acknowledges that international trade can play a role in achieving sustainable, robust and balanced growth for all;

8. *Calls for* a coherent set of policy actions at the national, regional and international levels to address excessive price volatility and support commodity-dependent developing countries in mitigating negative impacts, in particular by facilitating value addition and enhancing their participation in commodity and related product value chains, by supporting large-scale diversification of these economies and by encouraging the use and further development of market-oriented risk management tools, instruments and strategies;

9. *Stresses* the importance of developing and strengthening agricultural policies and strategies that recognize and address women's critical role in food security and improved nutrition outcomes as an integral part of both short- and long-term responses to food insecurity and malnutrition, excessive price volatility and food crises in developing countries;

10. *Recognizes* the potential for innovation, productivity improvements and the promotion of non-traditional exports in most commodity-dependent developing countries, particularly in Africa, and calls for enhanced support by the international community as well as exchanges of experience in these areas within the framework of South-South economic cooperation;

11. *Underscores* the importance of increased investments in quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure as a means of promoting agricultural development and enhancing commodity diversification, including value-added production, and trade, and urges the international community to assist commodity-dependent developing countries to mainstream trade as well as sound investment and financial policies as key elements of development strategies, based on national circumstances and development priorities, and to invest in and support research and development of agriculture productivity;

12. *Recognizes* the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security[17] by the Committee on World Food Security in 2012;

13. *Also recognizes* the endorsement of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems[18] by the Committee on World Food Security in 2014;

14. *Stresses* that technical assistance and capacity-building aimed at improving the commodity export competitiveness of producers are particularly important for developing countries, especially in Africa, and invites Member States and all relevant stakeholders to provide the necessary resources for commodity-specific financial and technical assistance, in particular for human and institutional capacity-building, including gender-responsive measures, as well as quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure development of developing countries, with a view to reducing their institutional bottlenecks and transaction costs and enhancing their commodity trade and development in accordance with national development plans;

[17] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document CL 144/9 (C 2013/20), appendix D.

[18] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2015/20, appendix D.

15. *Also stresses* that the Aid for Trade initiative should aim to help developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, to build the supply-side capacity and trade-related infrastructure that they need to assist them to implement and benefit from World Trade Organization agreements and, more broadly, to expand their trade;

16. *Recalls* the agreement to keep under regular review, by the Ministerial Conference and appropriate organs of the World Trade Organization, the impact of the results of the Uruguay Round on the least developed countries as well as on the net food-importing developing countries, with a view to fostering positive measures to enable them to achieve their development objectives, and in this regard calls for the implementation of the Marrakesh Ministerial Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries;

17. *Encourages* developed countries that have not already done so and developing countries declaring themselves in a position to do so to take steps towards the goal of realizing timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005;

18. *Strongly encourages* international financial institutions and development banks to assist developing countries, in particular commodity-dependent developing countries, in managing the effects of excessive price volatility;

19. *Reaffirms* that every State has and shall freely exercise full permanent sovereignty over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activities;

20. *Recognizes* the importance of increasing efficiency, effectiveness and transparency in the management of public and private sector revenues in developed and developing countries derived from all commodities and commodities-related industries, including final processed goods, in support of development;

21. *Notes* the important contributions of the Common Fund for Commodities and other international commodities organizations, and encourages them, in cooperation with the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and other relevant bodies, to strengthen coordination among them and to identify and implement innovative measures to enable the sustainable contribution of the commodity sector to economic development, including ways to reduce vulnerability to volatility in commodities, as well as to enhance activities in developing countries to improve access to markets and the reliability of supply, enhance diversification and the addition of value, improve the competitiveness of commodities, strengthen the market chain, improve market structures, broaden the export base and ensure the effective participation of all stakeholders, on the basis of a shared understanding of the contribution of commodities to sustainable development;

22. *Stresses* that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and its partners, in the spirit of inter-agency cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnerships, within their respective mandates, should continue to engage actively in collaborative research and analysis of the commodity problematique and related capacity- and consensus-building activities, with a view to providing regular analysis and policy advice relevant to the sustainable development of commodity-dependent developing countries, particularly low-income countries;

23. *Emphasizes* the importance of facilitating accession to the World Trade Organization, particularly for commodity-dependent developing countries, in full compliance with its rules;

24. *Underlines* the urgent need for the provision of and access to trade finance to commodity-dependent developing countries, given the tightened access to all types of credit and noting debt sustainability;

25. *Welcomes* the commitment to redouble efforts to substantially reduce illicit financial flows by 2030, with a view to eventually eliminating them;

26. *Stresses* that revenues from commodity production and exports remain critical for developing countries, in particular in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, given that developing countries need to mobilize resources in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and that commodity prices have been decreasing since 2011, which has put pressure on government budgets in developing countries, notes with concern the fall in commodity prices despite their increase in 2016, and recognizes with concern that African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States face particular challenges as lower commodity prices threaten the sustainable growth and the debt positions of such countries, and therefore calls upon those Member States to diversify their economies in order to achieve economic growth and the Sustainable Development Goals;

27. *Decides* to hold a one-off one-day informal interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on commodity markets during the first half of 2019 to review world commodity trends and prospects, particularly in commodity-dependent countries, on a date and in a format to be decided by the President of the General Assembly;

28. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental, global, regional and subregional organizations, in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and all relevant international financial and economic institutions, within their respective mandates, to continue to address the issue of the low industrialization and diversification of the economies of some commodity-dependent developing countries in relation to the capacity of Member States to achieve all the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030;[19]

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item entitled "Commodities".

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017

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[19] See resolution 70/1.

United Nations A/RES/72/206

General Assembly

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Agenda item 17 (e)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/418/Add.5)*]

72/206. Financial inclusion for sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolution 70/189 of 22 December 2015,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inter alia, sets out policies, the adoption and implementation of which seek to increase financial inclusion, and that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, inter alia, seeks to ensure that policy and regulatory environments support financial market stability, integrity and the promotion of financial inclusion in a balanced manner and with appropriate

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consumer protection, working towards the strengthening of financial literacy, capacity development for developing countries and full and equal access to formal financial services for all, in a manner that contributes to the mobilization of domestic resources for public and private investment in the economy and for capital formation and to greater availability of financial services in ways that spur enterprise growth and job creation and stimulate the economy and that brings more people and businesses into the formal economy in ways that stimulate economic growth, increase transparency and accountability and contribute to increased tax collection,

Emphasizing the relevance of inclusion in the international financial system at all levels and the importance of considering financial inclusion as a policy objective in financial regulation, in accordance with national priorities and legislation,

Acknowledging that the promotion of formal financial systems and services with robust risk-based regulatory frameworks for all financial intermediation, as appropriate, contributes to effectively and comprehensively combating corruption and curbing illicit financial flows,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

1. *Recalls* the inclusion in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[1] of, inter alia, several targets related to the promotion of financial inclusion, recalls that the Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, and in this regard looks forward to their achievement;

2. *Also recalls* the inclusion in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development[2] of, inter alia, several policies and actions intended to ensure a policy and regulatory environment for the promotion of financial inclusion, and in this regard looks forward to their implementation;

3. *Reaffirms* its decision to give consideration, as appropriate, to financial inclusion in the follow-up and review framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the follow-up process of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

4. *Takes note* of the consideration given to financial inclusion in the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development 2017,[3] stresses that, while significant progress has been made in financial market deepening in developing countries, financial depth does not always facilitate widespread access to financial services, and remains concerned that, globally, 2 billion people, primarily in rural areas in developing countries, do not have access to formal financial services and that, despite increased account ownership among women, the financial inclusion gender gap remains;

5. *Notes* that there is evidence that countries that adopt national financial inclusion strategies reduce financial exclusion twice as fast as those that do not, and in this regard encourages Member States to consider the convenience of adopting and

[1] Resolution 70/1.

[2] Resolution 69/313, annex.

[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.17.I.5.

pursuing national financial inclusion strategies and gender-responsive strategies, to end the structural barriers to women's equal access to economic resources and to expand peer learning, experience-sharing and capacity-building among countries and regions in this respect;

6. *Recognizes* the potential of science, technology and innovation, especially new technologies, for the promotion of financial inclusion, to offer affordable ways to access finance for the financially excluded, and supports concrete actions to advance digital financial inclusion while improving responsible digital financial practices to protect consumers, which can help to improve access to finance;

7. *Acknowledges* the efforts and actions on financial inclusion for sustainable development undertaken by a wide range of stakeholders working in partnership, such as the Alliance for Financial Inclusion, the Better Than Cash Alliance and the Group of 20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion, urges them to engage in an inclusive and transparent manner with the Member States in their work, in order to ensure that their initiatives complement or strengthen the United Nations system, including the United Nations Capital Development Fund and the regional commissions, and encourages enhanced coordination and cooperation with the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development;

8. *Encourages* the international community, including Member States, and all relevant stakeholders, including the entities of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, other intergovernmental bodies, regional and national development banks, domestic financial institutions, credit unions, multi-stakeholder partnerships and relevant non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, to further develop financial literacy and financial education programmes that include an emphasis on the impact of finance on sustainable development, as appropriate, in order to ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to access financial services, in particular women and girls, farmers and those working in micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises;

9. *Acknowledges* that, in the absence of strong financial consumer protection, the growth-enhancing benefits of expanded financial inclusion may be lost or severely undermined, and in this regard stresses the importance of scaled-up action to improve financial literacy and effective consumer protection for the most poor and vulnerable, including for women and young people;

10. *Encourages* Member States and all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, in the context of a renewed and strengthened Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, led by Governments, to continue efforts to reduce the transaction costs of migrant remittances to less than 3 per cent by 2030 and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent by 2030, to support national authorities in addressing the most significant obstacles to the continued flow of remittances, such as the trend of banks withdrawing services, and to work towards access to remittance transfer services across borders;

11. *Looks forward* to the continuing consideration of financial inclusion in the forthcoming reports of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, as appropriate and in accordance with existing mandates, as well as in the annual report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and to the further consideration of financial inclusion for sustainable development at the 2018 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up;

12. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

13. *Decides* to include, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item entitled "Financial inclusion for sustainable development", in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session.

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/207

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 January 2018

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 17 (f)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/418/Add.6)*]

72/207. Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows in order to foster sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming further the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[1] which is the most comprehensive and universal instrument on corruption, and recognizing the need to continue to promote its ratification or accession thereto and its full and

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

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effective implementation, including full support for the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention,

Reaffirming the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[2]

Recalling its resolution 71/213 of 21 December 2016,

Recalling also its resolutions 60/207 of 22 December 2005, 69/199 of 18 December 2014 and 71/208 of 19 December 2016,

Reiterating its deep concern about the impact of illicit financial flows, in particular those caused by tax evasion, corruption and transnational organized crime, on the economic, social and political stability and development of societies, and especially on developing countries,

Recognizing the challenge posed by the increasing scope and complexity of illicit financial flows and the need for the recovery and return of stolen assets, which necessitates the strengthening of international cooperation on this matter,

Reaffirming the importance of chapter V of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and underlining that the recovery and return of stolen assets pursuant to that chapter is a fundamental principle of the Convention,

Recognizing the work carried out by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and in particular its Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery, to advance the full implementation of chapter V of the Convention,

Noting with appreciation the ongoing efforts by regional organizations and other relevant international forums to strengthen cooperation in preventing and combating illicit financial flows,

Welcoming the establishment of the Platform for Collaboration on Tax to intensify collaboration and coordination on tax issues between the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank Group and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, including on formalizing regular discussions between the four international organizations on the design and implementation of standards for international tax matters and on the strengthening of their ability to provide capacity-building support to developing countries,

Noting that developing countries are the most susceptible to the negative impact of illicit financial flows,

Taking note of the report of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, and reiterating its invitation to other regions to carry out similar exercises, while commending its role in increasing knowledge on illicit financial flows,

Taking note also of the 2017 report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development,[3]

Keeping in mind that there are different components of illicit financial flows and that the separate analysis of channels or components is more beneficial in designing policy responses to prevent illicit flows,

Appreciating the fact that the Summit of the Group of 20, held in Hangzhou, China, on 4 and 5 September 2016, the first Summit of the Group of 20 to take place in a developing country following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

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[2] Ibid., vol. 2225, No. 39574.

[3] *Financing for Development: Progress and Prospects* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.17.I.5).

Development, with the broad participation of developing countries and including the Chair of the Group of 77, endorsed the Group of 20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as an important contribution to the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda, recalling the Summit of the Group of 20 held in Hamburg, Germany, on 7 and 8 July 2017, at which the Group of 20 endorsed the "Hamburg update" of the Group of 20 Action Plan, and looking forward to their implementation, while urging the Group of 20 to continue to engage in an inclusive and transparent manner with other States Members of the United Nations in its work in order to ensure that the initiatives of the Group of 20 complement or strengthen the United Nations system,

Noting recent international developments on the implementation of the Standard for Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information in Tax Matters under common reporting standards developed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and now involving more than 100 countries,

1. *Welcomes* the inclusion in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[4] of, inter alia, the target related to combating illicit financial flows, recalls that the Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, and in this regard looks forward to their achievement;

2. *Also welcomes* the inclusion in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development[5] of actions intended to combat illicit financial flows, and in this regard looks forward to their implementation;

3. *Further welcomes* the ongoing efforts of Member States to enhance knowledge and broaden understanding of the challenges and opportunities involved with international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development, including the initiative of Nigeria and Norway to this effect, as well as the initiative of Ethiopia and Switzerland on good practices on assets return, and calls upon Member States to continue such efforts, including through relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant regional or international forums;

4. *Expresses its concern* that cryptocurrencies are increasingly being used for illicit activities, and in this regard encourages Member States and other relevant organizations to consider taking measures to prevent and counter their illicit use;

5. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Corruption[6] and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,[6] and also urges States parties to those Conventions and Protocols to make efforts towards their effective implementation;

6. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

7. *Encourages* further efforts by relevant national actors to mitigate transfer mispricing and trade misinvoicing by multinational corporations, with a view to strengthening the tax base in host countries, bearing in mind the need for developing

[4] Resolution 70/1.

[5] Resolution 69/313, annex.

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

countries to strengthen their domestic resource mobilization in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

8. *Encourages* countries and relevant multilateral and international organizations to continue their efforts to provide, upon request, technical assistance and capacity-building assistance to developing countries in order to improve their capacity to prevent, detect and combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development;

9. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to convene, during the seventy-third session of the Assembly, within existing resources and in coordination with all relevant stakeholders, a high-level meeting on international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development;

10. *Notes* the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in coordination with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other institutions, to develop a methodology to produce estimates of the total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows;

11. *Decides* to give consideration, as appropriate, to international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development in the follow-up and review framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the follow-up process of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

12. *Calls for* greater international cooperation and sustained dialogue to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development and pledges to deter, detect, prevent and counter corruption, increase transparency and promote good governance for all citizens, which will contribute to the fostering of sustainable development;

13. *Looks forward* to the inclusion, in the 2018 report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, of an analysis of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development, pursuant to the mandate of the Task Force, and also looks forward to the deliberations of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", a sub-item entitled "Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development", unless otherwise agreed.

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/208

General Assembly

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Seventy-second session
Agenda item 18

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/419)*]

72/208. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 70/192 of 22 December 2015 and 71/217 of 21 December 2016 on the follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development and its resolution 70/299 of 29 July 2016 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008, and the third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating

[1] Resolution 70/1.

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poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reiterating the affirmation in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls and attaining the full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development,

Reaffirming the importance of addressing the diverse needs of and challenges faced by countries in special situations, in particular African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as the specific challenges faced by middle-income countries,

Welcoming the appointment of the members of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters with increased representation of experts from developing countries,

Welcoming also the convening of the second annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up from 22 to 25 May 2017,

Welcoming further the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the 2017 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up,[2] in which it was decided that the third forum would convene from 23 to 26 April 2018 and would include the special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 2017/206 of 5 October 2016,

1. *Emphasizes* the need to work towards the full and timely implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;[3]

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the first substantive report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development,[4] and notes that progress can be reported in all seven action areas of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, while acknowledging that many implementation gaps remain;

3. *Welcomes* the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the 2017 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up,[2] urges their full, effective and timely implementation, and looks forward to staying engaged so as to assess progress, identify obstacles and challenges in the implementation of the financing for development outcomes and the delivery of the means of implementation, promote the sharing of lessons learned from experiences at the national and regional levels, address new and emerging topics of relevance to the implementation of this agenda as the need arises and provide policy recommendations for action by the international community in substantive intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations at the 2018 forum;

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[2] See E/FFDF/2017/3.

[3] Resolution 69/313, annex.

[4] *Financing for Development: Progress and Prospects* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.17.I.5).

4. *Looks forward* to the summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the 2018 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up;

5. *Invites* the President of the Economic and Social Council to begin early planning of the 2018 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up;

6. *Recalls* that decisions relating to the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up are to be contained within the forum's intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations;

7. *Welcomes* the holding of the 2017 Global Infrastructure Forum in Washington, D.C., on 22 April 2017, also welcomes its outcome statement, and reiterates that the Forum is mandated to identify and address infrastructure and capacity gaps in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and African countries;

8. *Also welcomes* the progress made in operationalizing the three components of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the holding of the annual multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, which is important, inter alia, in helping to facilitate the development, transfer and dissemination of relevant technologies for the Goals, looks forward to the establishment of the online platform as part of the Mechanism, and welcomes the progress made in operationalizing the technology bank for the least developed countries;

9. *Takes note with appreciation* of the convening of the second annual multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals in New York on 15 and 16 May 2017, whose Co-Chairs' summary[5] served as an input to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, and in this regard requests the President of the General Assembly to convene briefings by the Co-Chairs of the multi-stakeholder forum for Member States, which shall take place no later than February 2018, on the recommendations contained in the Co-Chairs' summary with regard to the next steps for the multi-stakeholder forum;

10. *Recognizes* that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda provides a global framework for financing sustainable development and is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] supports and complements it and helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, which relate to domestic public resources, domestic and international private business and finance, international development cooperation, international trade as an engine for development, debt and debt sustainability, addressing systemic issues and science, technology, innovation and capacity-building, and data, monitoring and follow-up;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, fully recognizing the need to enhance coordination, promote the efficiency of United Nations processes and avoid duplication and overlapping of discussions, to address a joint meeting of the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council, informing them of and discussing the issues to be addressed in the thematic chapter of the 2019 and 2020 reports of the Inter-Agency Task Force, and to summarize those discussions by producing a report, within existing resources, to guide the Inter-Agency Task Force on the thematic issues to be covered in those reports, emphasizing that the annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up is dedicated to discussing in

[5] See E/HLPF/2017/4.

depth the follow-up and review of the financing for development outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development", unless otherwise agreed.

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017